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Star Wars returns

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Hague sacks Cranborne after Lords deal with Labour unravels

Tories in turmoil

'It's the end of the party as we know it'

Michael White
and Ewen MacAskill

THE Conservative Party was riven by an historic split last night after William Hague was forced to sack Lord Cranborne, his leader in the House of Lords, after an unauthorised backstairs deal with Labour over abolition of hereditary voting rights that went spectacularly wrong.

Mr Hague revealed the plan — which would have allowed nearly 100 of the 769 hereditary peers to stay on until a fully reformed upper house is established — in a dramatic exchange across the Commons dispatch box with Tony Blair. Only a handful of key players on either side had known about it.

Mr Hague then faced a revolt by Tory peers, who backed Lord Cranborne's deal by 80 votes to 20 despite Mr Hague's plea for a principled stand over Lords reform. At an emergency shadow cabinet meeting, he promptly sacked Lord Cranborne for what the peer admitted had been "going behind his back" to no in for three weeks of talks.

Mr Hague, who only learned the extent of Lord Cranborne's double-dealing yesterday morning, immediately asked to address the weekly meeting of backbench Tory MPs 30 minutes later. MPs endorsed Mr Hague's position even more emphatically than astonished peers had rejected it.

It confirmed a split which, some MPs predicted last night, could either finally ruin the Conservative Party or set it on the road to modernisation, free of centuries of elitist privilege. "This is the way William wants to take us," one Haguelite insisted. "It remains a huge gamble with his authority."

Mr Hague's fragile leadership is not under threat — unless the crisis deepens. It was not clear last night how badly he had miscalculated — hoping for a Labour split on the issue — or whether the



William Hague in the Commons yesterday. The Tory leader taunted Tony Blair over Lords reform — only to find his own party badly split on the issue

Labour plan may yet prevail. Lord Irvine, was unacceptable, Lord Cranborne tried to bounce his party into accepting it by enlisting the support of senior crossbench peers and hereditary Tory peers who saw it as a lifeline to save them from extinction.

In his letter to Lord Cranborne last night Mr Hague said he had no option but to sack him. "It can never be acceptable for a member of the front bench to seek to bring about a change in the policy of the party without the knowledge or agreement of the party leader or the shadow cabinet," he said.

The crossbenchers have been privately seeking a consensus on Lords reform for two years. Led by the former Speaker, Lord Wetherill, they were 10 minutes from unveiling the 91-peer deal to a Westminster press conference yesterday

when Mr Hague unexpectedly revealed the plan at Question Time. Taunting the Prime Minister over "this huge climb-down" on the hereditary peers, Mr Hague said the Tories were "not prepared to acquiesce in that change because we are not prepared to join forces with him on major constitutional change that is based on no comprehensive plan or principle."

Mr Blair, who had expected to announce the deal later yesterday afternoon, recovered quickly from the surprise. "I thought we had the agreement of the shadow cabinet of your party in the House of Lords. Indeed, I believe we have the agreement."

At the heart of the row was a compromise thrashed out behind the scenes between Mr Blair, Lord Cranborne, Lord Irvine and Baroness Jay, the new Labour Leader of the

Lords, that would have smoothed the passage of the Lords reform bill in return for guaranteeing a short reprieve from Death Row for 91 hereditary peers elected by their own parties in proportion to their current strength — 42 Tories, 23 crossbenchers, two Labour and three Lib Dems. How long they would last depends on how long it takes Mr Blair's royal commission to produce "stage 2" reform, a partly elected upper house. Three years, said Downing Street, at least five, said Tories.

Lord Cranborne, whose replacement was named as Lord Strathclyde, later told reporters he had been "sacked for running in like an ill-trained spaniel", to try to cut a deal with Downing Street behind his leader's back for three weeks.

He had offered to resign, but Mr Hague had opted to

sack him. Faced between a choice of "loyalty to my party and to what I believe is right for the constitution, there is no contest", the 52-year-old Tory grandee, heir to the 6th Marquis of Salisbury, said.

The Tories' ability to put up strong resistance to government plans to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers must now be in doubt. Under the plans, most of the 769 hereditary peers will lose their right to sit and vote in stage one of the reform.

Downing Street, which knew it was open to criticism for striking a deal that would preserve peers, justified its position last night by saying the pact could speed up the whole Lords reform process. The Tory split left only a few Labour MPs outraged. Most were gleeful at their party's coup.

Leader comment, page 9

Crisis talks to end market chaos

Larry Elliott
and Alex Brummer

AN UNPRECEDENTED meeting of world financial leaders is to be convened in Washington next month to implement emergency reforms of the International Monetary Fund and help head off a second bout of global economic turbulence.

The move to hold a special session of the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee — the first since it was set up at the Bretton Woods conference in 1944 — comes amid signs that the recent recovery in world markets is stalling, with fresh falls on world stock markets, profits warnings and job losses from multi-national companies, as well as fading hopes of restoring order to the Russian economy.

The meeting will break the normal pattern of a twice-yearly IMF gathering and emphasises the concern at the fragility of the global economy in both the Western countries and the developing world.

This was underlined last night when Wall Street was again gripped by panic selling in the wake of the announcement by Boeing of 48,000 redundancies worldwide. In a separate development, the World Bank revealed that Brazil, Russia, Indonesia and 33 other developing countries — accounting for 1.2 billion people — were likely to suffer falling standards of living this year.

Even the bank's best-case scenario has developing country growth — the engine of recent prosperity — more than halving from 4.8 per cent last year to 2.0 per cent in 1998 and only modest hopes of a recovery in 1999.

Carlo Ciampi, the Italian finance minister and chairman of the Interim Committee, has won the backing of G7 leaders to turn to page 2, column 7

'I said (to Mr Hague) I am extremely sorry that I have behaved outrageously, but I would do it again. I offered my resignation but he said he would rather sack me and I said that if I was in his place, I would have done the same'

Lord Cranborne, above

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Egypt E 1.50	Korea KSH 150	Malta M 0.50	Korea KSH 150

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UK news

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International

A Jewish knifeman who dresses in ultra-Orthodox garb and stalks Palestinians has claimed another victim. Page 7

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Sketch

New twist for end of the peers show



Simon Hoggart

HAVENS! A real, live news story emerged at Prime Minister's Question Time yesterday. Nobody can recall when this last occurred. It isn't meant to happen. It's like the England batsmen not collapsing, or the Queen hurping in public, or Chris Evans saying something funny on TV. It is against the natural order of things.

Prime Minister's Question Time is supposed to resemble a fight in a pub car park. Everyone is far too fuddled to have any idea what it's about, merely that it's vital to be on the winning side.

Yesterday we astounded sketchwriters had to be helped from the Gallery by kindly colleagues and attendants, and supported to the bar, where we could comfort ourselves with the cup that inebriates but does not cheer.

The person I felt sorry for was Bill Cash, the greatest Eurosceptic of them all. Mr Cash had drawn the first question to the Prime Minister, Europe, and the subject of harmonised taxes, was on every front page yesterday.

Mr Cash uncoiled to his full six foot something, and majestically quoted Churchill (to some sniggers from MPs, who have a suspicion that if our nation ever faces another Darkest Hour, it is improbable that Bill Cash will be called upon to lead us). "Tell the truth to the British people!" he intoned. "They have been misled! The time has come for you to tell us the truth!"

Mr Blair had no such intention. He evaded the question by promising to "represent a country properly and faithfully", whatever that might mean.

On any other day bellicose Tories might have tried to slice him down, like a wood-louse under a lawn strimmer. But yesterday was not that day. Mr Cash's moment of triumph had beckoned and then

disappeared. He looked like the father of the bride learning that the groom has just been spotted fleeing in a taxi to Gatwick airport.

Mr Hague rose and asked, with the mock ingenuousness that always marks his first question, whether the Prime Minister was "happy to see nearly 100 hereditary peers continue to sit in the House of Lords after your forthcoming Bill has been enacted?"

Labour MPs looked astonished. It was the first they had heard of this extraordinary wheeze, the rubber-bladed guillotine as it might be termed. Surely it could not be true? Tell us, Tony, you could almost hear them pleading, tell us it's a lie.

But he didn't. Instead he tried to turn his confirmation into an attack on Mr Hague. "I am delighted to see from your question it is an indication that you are now prepared to agree to what would remove hereditary peers altogether in two stages..."

Labour MPs tried to rally themselves but there was no denying their shock. It was as if Mr Cash's hero were to have told the British people: "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, but probably not in the fields or streets. As for surrender, we shall approach that question on a phased basis..."

Mr Hague insisted that the offer represented a "huge climbdown", which it is, though Mr Blair was able to claim triumphantly that the Tory leader in the Lords, Viscount Cranborne, had already agreed to the deal.

Both men said this to each other several times. Their astonishment at actually having to reveal genuine information had clearly robbed both of the power of coherent thought.

Mr Hague jeered that Mr Blair had no principles. Mr Blair scoffed that Mr Hague could not even give orders to his leader in the Lords.

In the end Mr Hague said limply that Labour wanted to turn the peers into a House of Croonies, and Mr Blair said: "Your croonies in the Lords agree with me."

When the sketchwriters recovered, we agreed that Mr Blair had won the day. But the sweetest victory must be the utter confusion in the Tory ranks.

Review

RSC roars back with Narnia treat

Michael Billington

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
Stratford

WHWO would have thought it? Rudderless of late in Shakespeare, the RSC recovers its form with Adrian Mitchell's excellent adaptation of C. S. Lewis's children's classic.

The reason, I suspect, has something to do with the company's trust in the story's elements of magic and mystery. Not having read Lewis's book until now, what struck me was its skilful deployment of a whole anthology of myth. Most obviously, in the death and resurrection of Aslan the great lion, it plays on the Christian story.

But a literary myth does not automatically make a theatrical hit. If this one works, it is largely because Adrian Noble's production and Anthony Ward's design find a visual equivalent to the book's image of transformation.

The wardrobe itself is a vast Victorian affair that swivels round to admit the children to an alternative world: one in which the eager Beavers occupy a house that seems to be

assembled from horizontal pencils, the White Witch sits on an illuminated throne, and the Stone Table resembles a giant mill-wheel that ultimately shatters in pieces.

Just occasionally the production descends into kitsch: around the Stone Table we find cutesy leopards in spotted body-stockings, but mostly the production is a visual treat and Mitchell's adaptation both plays fair with Lewis and keeps the story moving. Even Shaun Davey's music, which starts with echoes of Sondheim and ends with a fair-like chorale, justifies its presence.

Shrewdly, Noble also casts the central quartet from young adults rather than stage-tots. The decision pays off, especially with Rebecca Clarke's fearless, determined middle-class Lucy. Patricia Nalambano also lends Aslan the right dignity and pride, and Estelle Kohler is a volitionally vicious witch.

Some may jib at the story's traditional, implicitly royalist values. But the secret of the show's success is that it wholeheartedly acknowledges the power of myth and answers our primal hunger for the idea of death and rebirth.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday.

After five-month intelligence operation in capital more than 500 officers seize only £80,000 of cannabis

Police defend drugs raid

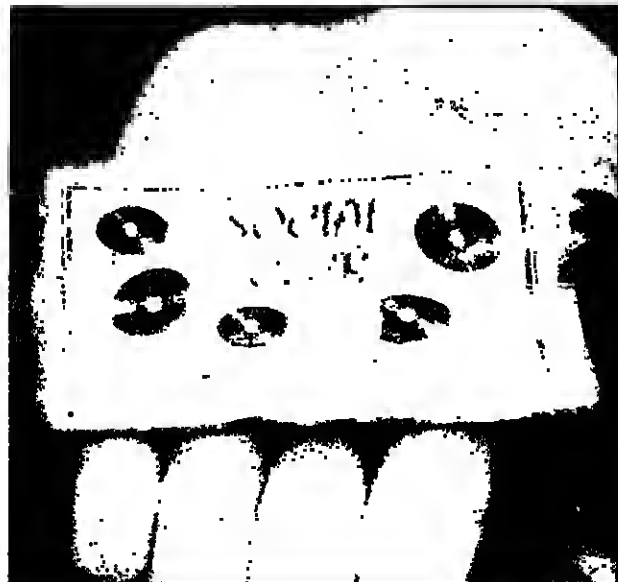


Police during Wednesday's raid, above, and a membership card for the Back Beat Club



Countdown to police raid

- Operation involved more than 500 police officers, some armed
- Premises observed by intelligence operation for five months
- Stun grenades were thrown, officers with hand guns and semi-automatic weapons abseiled from roof, and a police helicopter hovered overhead
- Police blocked streets in the area, bringing much of the West End to a standstill
- Lorry parked opposite with back-up officers



Amelia Gentleman

POLICE were forced to justify their decision to deploy more than 500 police officers, many of them armed, in the largest and most dramatic drugs operation the capital has seen when it emerged that it had netted only £80,000-worth of cannabis.

The raid, during which officers carrying semi-automatic rifles abseiled from the roof of a four-storey building, was the culmination of a five-month police intelligence operation focused on the Back Beat Club, in a seedy area of central London.

The operation led to 44 arrests. Seventeen people remained in custody last night — but it was not clear whether the club's organisers had been caught.

Although no Class A drugs and no firearms were seized, officers denied that their approach had been heavy-handed. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Michael Todd said: "So far the drugs haul has not been huge, but we wanted to make an impact against major league drug dealers, which we believe these people were."

Christmas shoppers and office workers on their way home were bemused by the sudden appearance of hundreds of officers just before 6pm on Wednesday.

Armed police wearing helmets and bullet-proof body armour abseiled down the side of the club and tried to force their way into the building — but attempts to kick in the fourth-floor windows were foiled when they discovered they had been filled in with concrete breeze-blocks. While some officers attacked the concrete with sledgehammers, more armed police stormed through the steel-reinforced main entrance at street level.

About 30 back-up officers were hiding in the back of a lorry, apparently broken down at the corner of the Charing Cross Road and Denmark Place, where the club is based, while a helicopter hovered overhead.

As police forced their way into the building, hundreds of uniformed officers swarmed into the surrounding streets. Fearing that the raid would meet with heavy armed resistance, police were keen to evacuate the area. In the event, they let off two stun grenades but no shots were fired and no one was injured.

Detectives chose to storm the building in the early evening, hoping to catch the club's owners rather than punters, but they found about 150 members already inside, making the most of the club's reputation as a place where cannabis could be bought and smoked freely.

Jude, aged 26, from Dundee, was inside when the police arrived. "There was a moment of panic then someone shouted 'We've been busted'," he said. "The police came in carrying guns, told us to lie

on the floor, face down, and handcuffed us. We were searched later on, but I'd already swallowed my drugs, so they let me go."

Hours after the event police spokesmen heralded it as a success, briefing journalists that a "major fortified drug warehouse" understood to be dealing in class A drugs had been uncovered in Denmark Place and bunting that a blow had been struck against Yardie gangsters. Firearms were also said to have been seized.

But it emerged yesterday that the scale and significance of the haul had been radically overplayed. Between £80,000 and £100,000 of cannabis resin was seized along with a further £70,000 in cash. A spokesman said no guns had been found.

But police said it would be 48 hours before they finished searching the labyrinthine network of rooms inside the building — which stretches about 100 yards along the north side of the alleyway — adding that there were at least three more safes still to be searched.

Police uncovered a drug-dealing room on the top floor.

The drugs haul has not been huge, but we wanted to make an impact against major league drug dealers'

where punters could buy cannabis by pushing £10 or £20 notes through an internal letter box and receiving a small bag from a gloved hand through the slot in return. The street, on the fringes of Soho and London's theatreland, will remain sealed until the search is complete.

Back Beat Club members yesterday expressed surprise at the police's response. Jimmy, aged 41, an IT expert and father-of-one said: "It was just an Amsterdam-style coffee house — people just went there to smoke dope, nothing else was available. This seems to have been a complete over-reaction."

Scotland Yard would not reveal how much the five-month operation had cost, but Mr Todd insisted it could not have succeeded on a smaller scale.

"We needed to ensure the safety of the public inside the club and in the surrounding area and we used a large number of armed officers because of this. If we had had a low level operation it would not have worked because the building was designed to frustrate police."

Animal rights 'hit list'

Militants threaten to murder 10 people if hunger striker dies

Will Woodward

AMILITANT animal rights group yesterday threatened to kill 10 people on a "hit list" if the jailed hunger striker Barry Horne dies.

Mr Horne was on the 57th day of his protest at the Government's refusal to promise a royal commission on vivisection. Friends said he was on the verge of a coma and was virtually blind and deaf.

Police said they were drawing up plans to counter an expected backlash if Mr Horne died. In a statement, the Animal Rights Militia identified four of the 10 people it said it intended to kill.

Mr Horne, aged 46, of Northampton, has been moved from Full Sutton prison, where he is serving an 18-year sentence for arson, to York District Hospital. He is receiving about 40 cards a day from supporters, who accuse the Government of breaking a pre-election pledge. Even if he resumes eating, doctors put his chances of survival at less than 70 per cent.

A spokesman for the Animals Betrayed Coalition, an umbrella group supporting Mr Horne's protest, said: "If Barry dies there's going to be a lot of anger. How people express that anger will be in a multitude of ways."

Robin Webb, press officer for the Animal Liberation Front, said the Animal Rights Militia, which emerged in 1984, was responsible for several letter bombs, though no one had been seriously injured. The ARM issued a warning during Mr Horne's first hunger strike, which ended in February 1997, that it would kill five people.

The Home Office said it was "not prepared to allow policy to be dictated by blackmail".

IMF talks on markets crisis

continued from page 1

to hold the crisis meeting in an attempt to speed up proposals on curbing the excesses of hedge funds, setting up a new global financial regulator to head off financial collapses, to introduce new disciplines on governments and to ensure that the poor are protected in the aftermath of the recent turmoil.

Ministers are also keen to see root and branch reforms of the IMF — widely criticised for its handling of the Southeast Asian meltdown — put at the top of the agenda, with greater powers to act at times of emergency. This means giving greater voice to the powerful developing countries, such as China and

Brazil, which have been key players during the unfolding economic drama of the past 18 months.

Britain and America have been at the forefront of the effort to accelerate reform of the creaking world financial system, and believe that the arrival of a new left-of-centre government in Germany will help reinforce the pressure for change.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is determined that the momentum should be maintained for a new global regulator to head off market crises such as that caused by the collapse of the Long-Term Capital Management hedge fund.

The new regulator would

bring together central bankers, stock markets such as the American Securities and Exchange Commission and the IMF in a bid to co-ordinate action to prevent the spread of global financial contagion.

The new global watchdog — connected by hotlines to individual central banks and country regulators — would be ready to step in when there was a risk of the sort of economic or financial collapse that spread from Russia to Western markets in August.

One of the key issues for the meeting will be imposing new rules on accountability and transparency, which will force individual nations to open their books to IMF and public scrutiny.



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creasingly "get-tooth" strategy against the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, and his policy of giving refuge to war crime suspects.

Nato's secretary-general, Javier Solana, said US troops in the Nato-led Stabilisation Force in Bosnia would be able to detain General Radislav Krstic and were preparing to transport him to The Hague.

Gen Krstic, the commander of the Drina Corps of the Bosnian Serb army, is charged with the 1995 massacre after the fall of the UN safe area of Srebrenica in July 1995, where thousands of Muslims were massacred.

Uniquely, he is charged in respect of "direct personal involvement as well as being responsible for the actions of those under his authority."

THE United States has put a price of up to \$5 million (£3 million) on the heads of the top Bosnian Serb war crime suspects Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, according to nor-

News of the bounty came as Nato forces arrested the most senior Bosnian Serb military figure yet seized for trial at the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

creasingly "get-tooth" strategy against the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, and his policy of giving refuge to war crime suspects.

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General Radislav Krstic:
Seized for trial in The Hague

The only other suspect to face genocide charges committed suicide in custody.

In London the Foreign

Office said: "We welcome this very much. It's a further step towards the end in Rome and an indication of the international community's resolve to act when the authorities themselves do not fulfil their obligations to transfer indictees to The Hague."

The detention had been carried out in line with S-Por's mandate, which authorises it to detain indicted war criminals encountered in the course of its duties. He said the days of families numbering in the hundreds of indicted still at large.

The tribunal's chief prosecutor, Louise Arbour of Canada was delighted, calling Gen Krstic "a very significant military leader." Gen Krstic, 57, was indicted in 1997. In October, he is believed to be a

close associate of Mr Karadzic and Gen Mladic. The administration is also offering \$1 million for the arrest of Milan Martić, the leader of the now defunct Serb Krajina area of Croatia. Smaller amounts are being offered for other suspects.

The state department officials said that the "most wanted" list based on more than two dozen suspects still at large.

Reactions in Bosnia were mixed. "I'm very pleased that one of the executors of the Bosnian genocide is on the entire population of a wide region of Bosnia, made it to The Hague," said Amir Masovic, the head of the Bosnian Muslim commission for missing people.

"I signed his arrest to use

well important facts related to the missing of more than 8,000 people from Srebrenica." In his answer, the Serbian Muslim leadership welcomed the arrest and expressed hope that Nato would now focus on apprehending the key architects of the war.

We welcome this arrest and particularly the fact that they have arrested the "big generals," said Mirza Hagic, the adviser to the Bosnian Muslim member of the joint presidency, Alija Izetbegovic.

We hope they will soon sweep up the rest of the army," But Peter Djodic, president of the Bosnian Serb parliament, said Gen Ersic's arrest on a secret indictment "brings uncertainty to people, a feeling that every citizen of

The US state department spokesman, James Rubin, neither confirmed nor denied the report in yesterday's Jewish newspaper. It said the US would not be funded under the state department's rewards programme, which has so far concentrated mainly on payments in the international drugs war.

The recently expanded legislation, which would be implemented after the summer, offers "rewards for information concerning individuals sought for serious violations of international humanitarian law relating to

Chris Bird in Pale on the elusive trail of Bosnian war criminals wanted for trial

N THE ski resort town of Pale, 10 miles east of Sarajevo, grim-faced Serbs trudge through the slush, the first snowfall of winter. Alpine chalets dot the Jahorina mountains surrounding the town. The air is clean and pure, filled with the buzz of chainsaws as men in checked shirts cut logs.

Below the town, a convoy of three United States army Humvees, with their machine-guns mounted on top and a military helicopter circling overhead — part of the 35,000-strong Nato-led stabilisation force in Bosnia — remain in the war-torn town.

Dotted on lampposts are portraits of Radovan Karadzic, the former leader of the Bosnian Serbs who stood for election as president of the Bosnian Serb's darkness. Wanted by the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague, he is in hiding, probably near Pale.

He conducted the war with his trusted Bosnian Serb lieutenant, General Ratko Mladic, from the Hotel Panorama above Pale. Once the informal capital of his Republika Srpska, the town used to be chock full of Yugoslav army troops, Serb irregulars and the army's paramilitary units.

Mr Karadzic, illegal under this 1995 peace agreement which forbids Mr Karadzic any political role in Bosnia, appears to be all that is left. But they warn any patrolling Nato soldier, in English: "Don't touch him."

Many of the local cronies have dropped him for fear of losing their jobs at the hands of the de facto Western protectorate — the Office of the High Representative (OHR) — which now rules the Balkan state with sweeping powers.

But the town is a symbol of resistance for the Serb people in a certain period, says Nikola Poplsen, the newly elected "president" of the Serb half of Bosnia in its new capital, Banja Luka.

It was here that British S-

for troops expelled Vojislav Seselj, an extremist Serb nationalist politician, from neighbouring Yugoslavia.

Mr Karadzic's former deputy, and until September the Bosnian Serbs' president, Biljana Plavsic, is equally conspicuous. "I have no contact with him, his policies are in the realm of the past."

But Western officials say Mr Karadzic is still a corrosive influence on the fragile peace won at Dayton, Ohio, in 1995. Ms Plavsic, with her grey hair and tweed skirts, might look like a headmistress, but her politics are as extreme as those of Mr Karadzic.

"Serbs wish to remain inside their own entity in Bosnia. A multi-ethnic entity is not good," she says. Such talk is inimical to Western efforts

'It will need a large force to take him'

to force Serbs, Croats and Muslims to live together.

"We still believe he is a political influence," says a diplomat with the OHR in Sarajevo, who says Mr Karadzic was "not good," she says. Such talk is his SDS party in Pale last week. "For reconciliation it's essential to get him."

Mr Karadzic, aged 53, and General Mladic, aged 55, are indicted for the Srebrenica genocide of 1995 and the three-year siege of Sarajevo.

The tribunal's Judge Fouad Rind said in November 1995: "After Srebrenica fell to besieging Serbian forces in July 1995, a truly terrible massacre of the Muslim population appeared to have taken place... thousands of men executed and buried in mass graves, hundreds of men buried alive."

men and women, mutilated and slaughtered, children killed before their mothers' eyes, a grandfather forced to eat the liver of his own grandson. These are true scenes from hell, written on the dark pages of history.

Officially, the West is going all out to hunt down Mr. Karadzic and Gen. Mladic. But Western officials appear dubious about how and when to arrest these men.

While S-For officers say they have intelligence about Mr. Karadzic's whereabouts, Carlos Westendorp, the Spaniard in charge of S-For, and a colleague he had no idea where Mr. Karadzic was.

Some reports say he has fled to the former Soviet republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but his birthplace is not known.

But another Western official who knows Pala says: "To my mind he's never been away, he's in the vicinity." Mr. Karadzic moves houses every day, he says, according to Western officials.

Sources appear to agree Gen Mladic is in Serbia, where the tribunal is betting — without success — to insist the court has jurisdiction.

The reluctance to arrest Mr. Karadzic stems from political and security concerns.

Lieutenant Colonel Dietmar Jeserich, a German officer on patrol with "Tiger platoon," says: "Let's say you meet Karadzic in a street and you want to move him out of the immediate area. So you say, 'I'm sorry, but I can't do this.' Karadzinkovs pointed at you. War criminals are respected here — they are people's heroes, and everyone has a Kalashnikov under the bed."

Estimates of the number of people who were killed in Karadzic's rise into the madness of war would take a large force to shake him out, a Western diplomat in Sarajevo says.

Toma Filip, a lawyer in Belgrade who represents alleged war criminals, says that the Hague tribunal has been told Mr. Karadzic and Gen Mladic are in hiding, says: "Karadzic is an intellectual and soft —

think he will give himself up. But Mladic will not deliver himself alive, he is a soldier."

An OHR official attributes S-For's reluctance to capture the two men to US terror of seeing their soldiers return home with a bodybag.

"It will be the British who will lift him, they don't care [about bodybags]," says a senior Western official based in Sarajevo. The British based in Sarajevo (about 90 per cent of S-For are headquartered).

Yet some Western officials fear that Mr Karadzic's arrest could cause the troubled peace process to collapse.

"If the arrests had been made two years ago there would have been a violent backlash and Dayton would be dead," one official says.

But the Karadzic arrest will put the peace process back to the beginning — maybe blow it."

Few Serbs in Pale are willing to talk about Mr Karadzic. "A people want to keep quiet because they are afraid," says a Serb television journalist, who declined to be named.

"He was our leader during the war, and for most [Bosnian Serbs] he is still our leader."

Mr Karadzic's arrest would also mean the end of his influence in neighbouring Serbia.

With Chet's General Augustin Pincote apparently set to face genocide charges, President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia would appear to have lost his last ally.

"I don't think [Karadzic] will ever make it alive to The Hague," says one Western diplomat, who mentions reports that Mr Milosevic has someone in Mr Karadzic's entourage ready to kill him if he ever shows him the way to NATO hands.

The diplomat asks if Mr Milosevic, the Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic or President Franjo Tudman of Croatia are likely to want Mr Karadzic. "No one," he says.

"You can imagine what he's got on everyone, and nobody in Bosnia is clean."

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In G2 EUROPE today: children or crack — which would you choose?

Also, how the Women's Institute has become a hotbed of British radicalism

'Can pay, won't pay' say anti-tuition fee students

Balliol encounters ideology as undergraduates risk suspension for revolt over tax on learning.
Rory Carroll reports from Oxford

THEIR brilliance already established, academic acclaim beckoned. And Oxford University opened its portals last October confident that in these two school-leavers it had yet again bagged Britain's best and brightest.

Yesterday, Kate Atkinson, aged 18, and Alice Nash, aged 19, showed the authorities that they were indeed in the mould of illustrious predecessors, but the pair have stumbled into one of Balliol College's lesser known traditions — student radicalism.

The symptoms spread like wildfire: threats of suspension, showdowns on points of principle, common rooms passing motions of revolt, journalists doorstepping desks, even a whiff of ideology. The reason — Ms Atkinson and Ms Nash are refusing to pay their £1,000 tuition fees. Not because they cannot, but because they will not.

They are risking meteoric academic careers on behalf of future generations of students too poor to attend university.

Yesterday, huddles of fellow students watched them in the common room fielding media

requests for interviews. A press release was being drafted and journalists were being evicted. It all seemed to be getting out of hand.

It was not supposed to be like this. Ms Atkinson, from Plumpton, Brighton, is studying politics, philosophy and economics. She was deputy head girl at Britain's most prestigious girls' school, Roedean, where she got A grades in maths, French, history and Latin A levels. Her father is a civil servant who works at Peter Mandelson's Department of Trade and Industry; her mother a tennis coach.

Ms Nash, who is studying history, left Britain's top sixth form college, Hills Road in Cambridge, with A grades in history, English, biology, French and general studies. Her mother Judith is bursar at a Cambridge theology college and her father, Peter, is a self-employed computer consultant.

Balliol's lustre was due to shine yet more. But then the Government introduced £1,000-a-year tuition fees, a move condemned by Oxford's junior common rooms. Some freshers paid their £1,000 into

the non-payment campaign's Midland bank account.

Ms Nash and Ms Atkinson were two such freshers and they obtained their parents' backing. "We are not wanting to draw attention to ourselves, so much as the protest and the principle," said Ms Nash, who translates computer programs into French to make money.

Newspapers were begging for interviews and articles, peers were queuing to murmur good wishes and Ms Nash had an essay to worry about on how far the medieval church satisfied the needs of the laity.

The protests, however, will flare the moment they are suspended, predicted Ricken Patel, the 21-year-old president of Balliol's common room. Completed questionnaires and motions from other common rooms showed there was strong support for disruption, he said.

Suspension, which will take effect from the start of next term, would effectively end the women's academic careers. Both intend to delay paying until just before that happens, but they run the risk of being suspended without warning.

If the two students miss Friday's deadline to pay, Balliol will pass their names to university authorities and they will be banned from taking exams. If they do not pay by the end of next term they

could also be evicted from their residency.

Andrew Graham, Master of Balliol, was unavailable for comment. The university, which has set up a scheme to help poor students pay fees, is reluctant to suspend students who cannot pay, but not those who refuse to pay.

Government talk of using the fees to fund an unprecedented expansion of third-level education cuts no ice with Ms Atkinson or Ms Nash, who claim the means-testing breaches the education act. "The Government can't get away with this. It'll affect future generations," said Ms Atkinson. "This is crunch time."

Balliol, founded in the 13th century, acquired a post-war reputation for leftwing student radicalism. Both women were cagey about being cloaked in the legacy.

"I'm aware that in that sense we're carrying on tradition, but I didn't come here to cause trouble. I want to get a degree," said Ms Atkinson.

Ideally, they want the fees abolished, but, wanting to be constructive, they accept there is an education cash crisis and so suggest alternative methods of funding, such as a graduate tax.

Balliol authorities convinced leftwing activism is about to make a comeback may disbelieve it, but both women are adamant. "We're not going into politics."



Kate Atkinson (left) and Alice Nash... drawing attention to the principle rather than themselves

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ANGLIS

Royal Court avoids offending Queen with play on words to keep £3m gift

Dan Gilsalter
Arts Correspondent

THE Royal Court Theatre has come up with a convoluted compromise which enables it to keep a £3 million donation from the Jerwood Foundation and not offend the Queen.

Previously, the Queen had ruled out the use of the name

Jerwood before the word royal when the theatre proposed changing its name in return for the donation.

The refurbished theatre, due to open next autumn, will still have the words "Royal Court Theatre" on the facade of its Sloane Square home. But above that a neon sign will bear the words "The Jerwood Theatres at the Royal Court".

Inside, audiences — should they not already be too befuddled by the range of names on offer — will be able to choose between the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs and the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs.

The agreement between the Jerwood Foundation, a charitable trust that supports the arts, and the Royal Court, ran into problems when it emerged that the Jerwood

was insisting on its name being included in the name of the theatre.

The £3 million donation from the Jerwood means that the Royal Court is the first big capital project backed by the National Lottery to have raised all of its matching funding.

The Royal Court has been granted a total of £18 million from the lottery.

Under lottery rules, it had to raise 25 per cent of the total redevelopment cost of £25.8 million, or about £7 million, from other sources.

The Royal Court chairman, Sir John Mortimer, welcomed the compromise yesterday. "I am enormously relieved that the negotiations have been happily resolved and we can now go forward to provide a rebuilt and hugely improved

theatre for new writing." But Alan Grieve, Jerwood chairman, revealed that the compromise was only reached after much debate.

"We have had a robust debate on our proposed capital funding of the Royal Court and shared praise and criticism in equal measure."

"We have now achieved a reasoned way forward." The Royal Court artistic di-

rector, Ian Rickson, warned that the difficulties the theatre had faced in raising matching funding would emerge if the RUC, and an ad hoc committee of trustees, approached completion.

"There's real donor fatigue out there," he said. "When the lottery was set up bureaucrats made national predictions based on nothing."

We've been fortunate to get through, but it will be an issue for the whole country."

Large, lottery-backed projects, including the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside and the Royal Opera House, still have substantial sums to raise.

Sadler's Wells opened in September despite not having raised all its matching funding.

Met is sued on 'racial assault' 11 years ago

Jamie Wilson

A 23-YEAR-OLD man yesterday told the High Court how he had been punched, kicked and subjected to a torrent of racial abuse by Metropolitan police officers when he was a schoolboy aged 12.

Jermaine Jauvel, of the Elephant and Castle, south east London, is suing the Metropolitan police commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, for damages arising out of his arrest and subsequent prosecution for assaulting a police officer.

Opening the case before Mr Justice Popplewell, Rajiv Menon, representing Mr Jauvel, told the jury that they would be trying "the behaviour of the police".

"This is a case about loss of innocence and how a child in a matter of hours can experience something which you may feel no child should have to experience."

"This is a case about the reality of being black in an English city," Mr Menon told the jury.

Mr Menon told the jury that because of the time that had elapsed since the incident took place "very senior officers" would be giving evidence, including Stephen Pilkington, now the chief constable of Avon and Somerset, and two superintendents.

"Don't be put off by any smooth talking police officer that they would never racially abuse or tolerate violence against a child. Don't be fooled by that," Mr Menon said.

"Racism is something which is no longer denied by the Metropolitan police like it was in years gone past. It is now accepted by the commissioner that there are racist officers among the Metropolitan police."

In his evidence Mr Jauvel, who now works as a musician, told the court that at the time of the incident he was a first year pupil at St Joseph's Academy, an all boys school in south London.

He was trying to catch a bus home from the Riverdale Centre in Lewisham when a constable, who had been trying to clear the area of young people, poked him on the shoulder with his finger and told him to leave the shopping centre.

As Mr Jauvel was walking outside he accidentally bumped into the police officer who grabbed him by the shirt collar, ripping off two buttons, the jury was told.

"He put his arm around my neck so that I had difficulty breathing. I was then lifted off the ground by another three officers; two had hold of my feet and two had hold of my arms."

Mr Jauvel described how he was carried back inside the centre where he was "kicked on the bottom and kicked in the face," by the police.

He said he heard his friend, Lana Chamberlin, who was 13 at the time, crying and screaming and saw her being slapped.

"In the police van a woman police officer was calling me racist names, like black



Jermaine Jauvel... "This is about being black in an English city"

PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES HORTON

bastard and black shit and to go back to where I belonged."

He was later charged with assaulting a police officer, but the case was thrown out before Mr Jauvel was required to give evidence.

"The police evidence was not taken into account because they told lies," he said.

Earlier Mr Menon said the police commissioner "had refused to accept that Jermaine should never have been arrested and had refused

to accept that he had been unlawfully assaulted or racially abused."

"Indeed, he is blaming Jermaine Jauvel and saying the officers' actions were justified." The hearing continues.

'Hysteria' over RUC hits talks

John Mullin on the tussle for police reform which could prove yet another stumbling block

TONY Blair returned to Belfast last night, desperate to push forward the stalled political process in Northern Ireland. He was trying to secure a deal on the making of devolved ministries and north-south bodies, but there are even tougher problems ahead.

The impasse over IRA decommissioning of weapons is the obvious block to progress even if David Trimble, First Minister, and Seamus Mallon, Deputy First Minister, manage to agree on government departments and cross-border institutions — they need to settle matters this week to ensure legislation is passed in time for the assembly to go live in February.

There is no sign that the IRA is preparing to hand over weapons to the International Commission on Decommissioning. Unionists demand some IRA disarmament before Sinn Féin joins the power-sharing executive; Sinn Féin says there is no such requirement in the Good Friday Agreement.

But even if a "fudge" can be found to entice the parties out of their corners, another spectre looms. It is six months before Chris Patten's Independent Commission on Policing will report on its recommendations for RUC reform — but its public meetings have been generating such hysteria that the fall-out from the report is likely to eclipse the rows over decom-

missioning and the release of paramilitary prisoners.

Take Derry on Tuesday. First, the commission visited the Waterside, the predominantly Protestant district. There, it heard some criticism of the RUC, and an admission that there had to be cuts. But the overwhelming message was: no wholesale change. Or else.

Mr Patten and his commissioners nipped across the River Foyle to feverishly nationalist Bogside. They listened to a two-hour, anti-RUC diatribe. The thrust: disband the RUC and form a new devolved service with ex-paramilitaries welcome. Or else.

The commission, which has received submissions from all the political parties, is now on a 30-date tour to meet the people. Mr Patten refuses to say much, except diplomatically to describe each exercise as "constructive".

Unionists accuse Sinn Féin of manipulating the commission's meetings. They claim that, with the long-running fight to free prisoners now won, the party's resources are being switched to the policing debate. Supporters are being coached in what to say.

They point as an example to last month's row over Donagall Celtic's semi-final cup tie with the RUC. The west Belfast club wanted to play, and voted to do so. But it was forced to back out, citing Sinn Féin pressure; its players, it says, were threatened.

Bairbre de Brun, Sinn Féin's spokesperson on policing, denied accusations of coercive tactics at the commission's meetings. "Nationalist anger and resistance to the RUC is real, it's not the product of manipulation."

Sinn Féin wants an unarmed police force of 3,000 to replace the 76-year-old RUC, which now has 11,500 officers. It wants 45 per cent of them to be Catholic, and a screening process that excludes "human rights violators". Ex-terrorists should be eligible to join. This upsets even moderate Unionists. They point out that 302 RUC officers were assassinated during the troubles.

The commission's key decisions will be on disbanding the RUC, membership. And how Mr Patten selects both sides — enjoying no common ground — will determine the peace process.

Yesterday, a poignant reminder not to let peace slip came not from politicians but from one of the last victims of the Omagh bombing to leave Royal Victoria hospital in Belfast. Pauline Green, aged 19, who suffered 30 per cent burns and partial amputation of her left leg, told the negotiators: "Peace is within our grasp now... everyone wants it. Keep talking."

More than 80 children traumatised by the bombing on August 15, which claimed 29 lives and injured 350, are undergoing specialist counselling, it emerged yesterday. They are among hundreds suffering problems.

British ambassador severely rebuked for 'deplorable' action

Richard Norton-Taylor

BRITISH ambassador was severely rebuked yesterday in a damning report by the parliamentary ombudsman, who described the envoy's conduct over a consular complaint as "extraordinary and wholly deplorable".

In a report which contains unprecedented criticism of Foreign Office officials, the ombudsman, Michael Buckley, describes the response by the department to the complaint as "disingenuous" and castigated the Foreign Office

for refusing to apologise for the ambassador's indefensible action.

The report does not name the ambassador. Nor does it identify the complainant — a company representative who criticised locally-employed consular staff in an unnamed but apparently Third World

country. The complainant, a British citizen, was obliged to resign from his company after the ambassador criticised the man's conduct in a letter to his chief executive.

The company, also not identified, was a government contractor. The employee complained

in 1994 about having to pay a fee to the British consul for a letter of introduction to obtain a tourist visa from another country. He described the consular staff as "officious, unhelpful, and rude".

He suggested that the consulate "might benefit from employing more British staff (particularly housewives) or from better training".

The ambassador subsequently passed the man's letters of complaint to the company's chief executive, without the employee's knowledge. Mr Buckley describes the explanation by the Foreign Office's then top dip-

lomats that the ambassador did not expect his actions to lead to the employee's resignation as "disingenuous".

The Foreign Office's refusal to apologise is described by Mr Buckley as "maladministration in itself".

Sir John Kerr, head of the Diplomatic Service, has now

apologised to Mr Buckley, and the Foreign Office has agreed to give the former company employee an ex gratia payment of £5,000, but no disciplinary action has been taken against the ambassador. The Foreign Office yesterday refused to say if he was still a serving diplomat.



Marion McRae (left) and Linda Gorman, who were helped by the Family Service Unit

PHOTOGRAPH BY MURDO MURDO

Schoolboy coolly chose suicide

Sarah Mait

A BRILLIANT schoolboy and talented musician killed himself after meticulously weighing up the pros and cons in a diary over two months, an inquest heard yesterday.

Fifteen-year-old Dario Iacopini, a pupil at the grant-maintained London Oratory school, calmly analysed his existence — and recorded just before his death: "On balance, life is not good."

The "deep-thinking" choirboy — who gained six A and A* GCSEs a year early — then took his father's shotgun, wedged a wooden spoon in the trigger, and used his foot to fire a shot through his head, at his family's home in Ealing, west London, last month.

The inquest, at West London coroner's court, in Fulham, heard that the schoolboy had hoped to study law at Harvard or Yale.

To his family, Dario, who played the violin in a local youth orchestra, showed no signs of depression, but the five volumes of diaries he filled over a year revealed he was preoccupied with religion, philosophy, life and death.

John Burton, the coroner, told the court: "On the very last entry in the diary there are two pages of pros and cons and he came down on the side of suicide. He was very stoical about it. He did not fear death. He described death as neutral. He decided that on balance life is not good and points out that the mathematics he has used are indisputable."

He decided that on balance life is not good and points out that the mathematics he has used are indisputable

indisputable and that is his last entry. It was a considered process."

He continued: "With some young people you think they don't appreciate what they are doing but he had analysed what he was doing... He has been thinking about the way

he would die, planning it, organising it, and analysing if there is a purpose in life."

He realised he needed a "window of opportunity" when his parents were away to carry out his aim — and killed himself on November 3, as his mother, Seleni, a teacher, attended an amateur dramatic society meeting and his father, Pietro, a translator, was in Switzerland on business.

He took just one cartridge for the clay pigeon shooting gun, which he had secretly learned to use. His body, slumped in the spare room, was found by the family's lodger, a 20-year-old student.

The court heard that his diaries made no mention of bullying and that drugs and alcohol had played no part.

After the inquest, the boy's father, who did not attend, said: "We had no idea he was planning on taking his life. He never showed any sign of depression."

He added: "Dario was a most serene boy and very, very clever. He was a very mature young boy — more mature than us. As you can imagine, we are all terribly distraught."

Dr Burton recorded a verdict of suicide.

Blair's pledge to block EU tax unity

Michael White and Lucy Ward

TONY BLAIR yesterday promised to use Britain's veto to block unwanted plans for tax harmonisation within the European Union, as senior ministers in London and Brussels made frantic efforts to lower the temperature over the latest Franco-German initiative.

In Commons exchanges the Prime Minister said his government would remain "engaged and positive" over Europe and a row which British ministers believe is more about disarray within the new German government than problems for Whitehall.

With Mr Blair and senior colleagues heading for the annual Anglo-French summit in St Malo tonight, they hope the agenda can be diverted away from tensions over tax towards areas of constructive co-operation, notably defence industry mergers and stronger entrepreneurship.

Downing Street officials protested that the French and German media carried little yesterday about Franco-German calls for tax harmonisation. So did the European Commission president, Jacques Santer, who told Brussels reporters: "When I read the British papers I think I'm on another planet."

He confirmed Whitehall's point: that all member states have a veto over tax proposals, including proposals to end that veto.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, will use a Commons speech today to ram home Britain's priorities, including the creation of "a cohesive and authoritative" EU voice on foreign affairs and closer ties on defence and security.

Labour will not agree to harmonise corporate taxes, and zero-rating for VAT, and give up national control of income tax, he will say.

Mr Blair is keen not to get involved in the negative Euro-politics of the Major years. Yesterday he did not directly invoke the UK veto. But he did assert: "I don't believe that we will be alone in this argument on taxation in Europe."

Forty patients recalled after breast case deaths

FORTY women patients treated by a surgeon have been asked to return to hospital for breast examinations and concerns over the post-operative care of two patients who later died.

The women were contacted by Bury Healthcare NHS Trust in Greater Manchester after they were treated by consultant surgeon David Baumber, who has resigned.

The trust's chief executive, Philip Bacon, said concerns over Mr Baumber's clinical practice were first raised by nursing staff in April.

Five consultants from outside the North-west were brought in to launch a review of 800 of his cases dating from 1996. This centred on the management of the post-operative care of the two patients, who died in April, although it was not clear whether it contributed to their deaths.

The trust has sent a report to the General Medical Council. The review looked at 460 breast cases in detail, and 40 of these patients were invited back to hospital for a mammogram. Tests on the first nine women were clear, and yesterday the trust emphasised that the move was only a precautionary measure.

Mr Baumber worked at Bury general hospital and Fairfield general hospital for more than 20 years. It is understood he is seriously ill and will not return to work.

Mr Bacon said: "We are very sorry this has happened at all, and despite our reassurances we understand some people will be distressed."

"We have set up a helpline. We would re-examine any woman who has been in contact with the 40 and there is no need for the public to ring, but it's there if people are worried."

"Since April the trust's overriding concern has been the health of patients and reviewing the relevant cases. The trust has moved very quickly to put matters right, and we will do anything we

can to reassure patients."

He said nursing staff passed on concerns they had about the care of a male patient who died after an operation. "The trust immediately started investigating, and we identified concerns relating to a further six patients, one of whom had also died. As soon as we were aware of the concerns, on April 16, we told Mr Baumber not to come into work, and he has since resigned."

Mr Bacon said the doctors who reviewed the cases of the two patients who died were critical of the post-operative treatment, but they were quite clear that the operations themselves were successful.

The trust said in a statement that details of the independent investigations would be made public, but the priority was to make sure the 40 patients concerned were seen as quickly as possible.

The 24-hour helpline for concerned patients of Mr Baumber is 0161 293 5500.



The Guardian's Christmas appeal gives readers the opportunity to make a donation to up to eight small but important charities. Today, **Gerard Seenan** reports on the work of one, the Family Services Unit, which supports families in some of Britain's most deprived inner city areas

Snatched from jaws of Pilton's poverty trap

Gerard Seenan

GREATER Pilton is Irvine Welsh land: urban deprivation held together by poverty and a heroin hangover, but without the chic imposed by celluloid glamour and good-looking movie stars.

Rows of barely functional housing sit depressingly en masse in this Edinburgh district, only the occasional derelict scum-bum marking where a former block has been ripped down. Windows are

boarded up with rusting metal grilles, New York-style graffiti daubs shop fronts.

But in every second doorway or so there is a different story to be told. Nest curtains are tied back to let the light in, front stairs are swept free of dirt, children play on postage-stamp patches of grass, mothers fold their arms in front of their chests, ears cocked for gossip or concern.

"It is difficult to be happy in Pilton," admits Linda Gorman.

"It's grey and depressing and there's an awful lot of poverty. People here can't go out

for a meal or go to the pictures when they're fed up. There's nothing but the television and it is really easy to become isolated."

"It's only by seeing that everybody else has the same problems as me that I get through it."

Ms Gorman has been using the estate's Family Service Unit for the past few years. She went there after developing an alcohol problem, she says.

"I was isolated, stuck in the house with no self-confidence. I'd just had a baby. But when I came to the FSU I realised other people here felt that way too, and I could cope."

The Edinburgh Family Service Unit helps about 100 adults and 250 children each week. Many have similar problems to Linda, others are affected variously by drug, domestic violence, depression, poor housing, money worries, HIV and Aids. All stem from poverty.

Ms Dahl, manager of the unit, says: "Unemployment here is horrendously high. There's all the fall-out problems of HIV from the heroin epidemic in the eighties. Much of the housing is terrible. No buses come in to the estates, there's no bank, only one supermarket. We might hire a bus for Christmas shopping — they can't afford to waste what little money they have getting there."

The statistics show that 43 per cent of households in Greater Pilton have no earners, and 48 per cent of children under five are in single parent households. As heroin gripped in the eighties, the mortality rate in Greater Pilton was 27 per cent more than expected for the entire Edinburgh region.

"I watched my family die, my friends die and people who I went to school with, die," says Marion McKee, of the FSU local committee.

"There were already problems with poverty and the sense of community being lost, but heroin took away almost a whole generation. On top of that, there's the relentless poverty that damages everybody who lives here."

Most of the groups, schemes and programmes run by the Edinburgh FSU are preventative in nature and perhaps a little aspirational. It is virtually unknown for anyone from Pilton to enter tertiary education, so the FSU has brought in fifth and sixth year pupils from private schools and well-regarded comprehensives to help younger children with their homework.

"If they see that there's this big person who they can respect who's going to university, then that helps," says Ms Dahl.

Besides the playgroups and summer trips — "We took 12 of them water skiing. Who in Pilton could afford to take their wetsuits water skiing without this?" — the toy libraries and the clean second hand clothes where a babygrow at 50p is within budget, the FSU helps with relationships.

"I was in a victim of domestic violence and I was clinically depressed. Social services couldn't give me counselling and I couldn't afford it. But the FSU helped me get out of the relationship. They gave me a hand when I needed it," says Ms McKee.

In the common room, Ms Dahl talks about the figures needed to keep the FSU running for another year: £25,000 for the playgroup, tens of thousands more for else-where. Ms Gorman points out the toy library, a few streets away.

"It's where I got a plastic car for my wee boy Robbie. I couldn't afford to buy him one at the time and it made such a difference. Simple thing really, but a big help."

The charity

Based in some of the country's poorest inner city areas, Family Service Units provide emergency and long-term assistance to families in crisis.

Every year, the FSU helps 6,000 families living on some of the country's most deprived estates.

Founded in 1948 to provide support for the families impoverished by war, the organisation has adapted its services to cope with the demands of modern poverty. Some 40 per cent of service users are from minority groups.

Each of the 21 units acts as a one-stop shop, offering a diverse selection of services — from counselling, to parenting classes, working with victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse, offering anti-bullying classes, refugee and benefits advice, mental health support projects and providing toy libraries.

FSU workers provide intensive, time-consuming support in a way which social workers cannot. People who are wary of state provided help often turn to the FSU instead.

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Audit promise pre-empts vote on salaries and expenses. Martin Walker in Brussels reports

Labour MEPs promise 'clean regime'

BRTAIN'S 60 Labour MEPs will pre-empt today's vote in the European Parliament on members' pay and expenses with a joint pledge for a "clean regime". They plan to subject all their future finances to an independent financial audit by British accountants, which will then be published.

After a long day of debate yesterday on a new statute for MEPs to be paid a common salary and be subject to a more rigorous check on their expenses, the outcome of today's vote in the European Parliament is too close to call. A similar vote last month failed after 12 Tory and three Labour MEPs voted against reform.

MEPs' expenses and allowances, worth more than £100,000 a year each, constitute the longest-running scandal in European politics. Members were last night still fighting hard to retain the

current system under which they are paid first-class return airfares to their constituencies for every session, whether or not they have travelled.

"This is the taxpayer's money we are using, so we are going to be fully and openly accountable to the taxpayer for the way we spend this money," Labour MEP leader Alan Donnelly told The Guardian yesterday.

"From now on, we Labour MEPs and candidates have decided as a group that we will get repaid only for the exact amount we spend on travel. This has not been imposed by London. This was done at our own suggestion."

The Labour MEPs have also signed up to promise a "fair deal" for all their secretarial and research staff, with a guarantee of British pay and employment conditions for employees, who can currently be hired and fired at will. "The European Parliament

MEPs' entitlements

- 1: Secretarial staff — up to £6,585.60 per month
 - 2: Office running costs, phones etc — £2,263.30 per month
 - 3: Travel, first-class return air fare plus taxis for each parliament session and parliament committee meeting. No checks are made whether the money was spent on the journey made
- Plus a) an extra £2,100 a year for other travel; and b) £161.70 per day subsistence allowance for meals, drinks and hotels incurred on any day of official travel

has to be seen to be above suspicion, and if the full parliament will not vote to clean it up, both expenses and in the conditions we offer our staff, we are determined to do it for ourselves," Mr Donnelly added.

Each MEP gets £5,580 a month to pay for secretarial and research staff, both in Europe and back in the constituency. Some MEPs have as many as five staff members to service a constituency which in population is equivalent

to seven Westminster constituencies.

Under Labour's system, each MEP would be allowed to keep at least one staff member, but has signed a pledge to pass over an unspecified part of their allowance to the Labour Party to establish a series of new regional MEP service centres across Britain. With a total income for all 60 Labour MEPs of more than £47 million a year in staff allowances, this could finance a significant regional network.

All the Labour candidates selected for next June's election have committed themselves to pooling resources with others in the region "to co-ordinate representational information, press and campaigning functions".

Labour rebels immediately condemned the plan as "another example of Millbank's control-freak mentality", and as a back-door way for the Labour Party to build and finance a regional organisation back in Britain and get Europe to pay for it.

"This is quite wrong and I think it is illegal," said sacked Labour MEP Ken Coates, expelled from the Labour group last year. "These expenses are for the members to do their job, not to finance the Labour Party back in Britain. This is all about the Labour Party machine getting its mucky paws on the members' money."

receive the same pay, of £5,580 a month, and to be reimbursed only for the travel they can prove with bills.

The problem is that currently each MEP is paid the same as MPs in countries' national parliaments. So Italian MEPs are the richest, with more than £7,000 a month in pay, while the Spaniards are poorest, with just under £2,700 a month.

The Spaniards claim that they need the generous expenses and allowances system in order to live in expensive cities such as Brussels and Strasbourg, where the parliament is located.

"Naturally the Spaniards are all in favour of reform, and the Italians are understandably reluctant to lose income, but it looks as though we have solidarity from the Socialist MEPs all across Europe to vote for this reform," a Socialist group spokesman said yesterday.

Fury at Santer as new EU fraud watchdog remains toothless

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE European Commission was under renewed attack last night for failing to tackle EU fraud. It announced a revamping of its inquiry unit instead of the fundamental reforms it had promised.

Jacques Santer, the Commission president, was attacked by MEPs after he told the European Parliament meeting in Brussels that although an independent unit to investigate fraud would be set up, it would be drawn from the Commission's existing investigators and would still have to be called in by officials to start an inquiry. The EU's existing anti-fraud unit has been criticised for lacking the means to pursue investigations vigorously enough. Although there were 2,668 cases of irregularities reported last year alone, the unit, which has only 30 investigators, has so far managed just as investigations. Only eight officials have been disciplined.

Herbert Bosch, an Austrian Social Democrat MEP who drew up a recent critical report for the parliament said last night: "The Commission's response is absolutely not satisfactory. The bigger the EU gets the more important it is to lift the curtain on what is going on. Officials in member states' governments do not have immunity and nor should those in EU institutions."

Jospin's women trouble causes tension in Paris

Paul Webster on another cabinet clash of genders

IN ANOTHER clash with a woman cabinet member, the French prime minister, Lionel Jospin, has told the culture minister, Catherine Trautmann, that her reforms of the broadcasting system are too badly drafted to be put before parliament.

The cancellation of a parliamentary debate due later this month on one of the prime minister's key promises has added to existing tensions between male and female ministers.

Last month Mr Jospin publicly rebuked the environment minister and Green Party leader, Dominique Voynet, for supporting an illegal immigrants' protest.

The prime minister has also faced criticism of his justice minister, Elisabeth Guigou, for a badly prepared gay rights bill that has paralysed the parliamentary agenda.

With the future of the three women in question, the Socialist prime minister risks being compared to his Gaullist predecessor, Alain Juppé.

Mr Jospin, with five women in cabinet posts, is committed to male-female parity in politics, but faces the most embarrassing situation since 1992 when the

late Socialist president, François Mitterrand, sacked the country's first woman prime minister, Edith Cresson, after she had spent only 11 months in office. Ms Cresson's aggressive attitude irritated her male colleagues, whom she accused of being macho.

The row about the seventh broadcasting reform in 15 years is likely to reawaken suspicions of an endemic gender clash in French politics.

Ms Trautmann, former mayor of Strasbourg, was reported to be "pale and trembling" after meeting Mr Jospin. She told MEPs that her bill had been postponed because of a crowded parliamentary agenda.

It was left to a rightwing, former culture minister, Philippe Douste-Blazy, to sum up what was considered to be the real reason for delaying a measure intended to raise the independence and quality of state broadcasting by reducing the need for heavy advertising.

"I have never seen a worse-prepared bill," said, referring to a lack of precision on how the public network would be financed. "It has reneged the opposition."

Responsibility for some areas of policy has been handed to a woman mem-



France's Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, is committed to sexual parity in politics, but recent clashes with female cabinet members have left a question mark over the futures of (from left) Elisabeth Guigou, the justice minister, Dominique Voynet, the environment minister, and the culture minister, Catherine Trautmann



Anglo-French defence move

Richard Norton-Taylor

BRTAIN and France are to step up co-operation on defence and security issues as part of an attempt to make the EU a more credible diplomatic and military force, Whitehall officials said yesterday. Tony Blair and President Jacques Chirac are expected to announce a series of measures, including joint military and diplomatic responses to international crises, at the conclusion of the Anglo-French summit in St Malo tomorrow.

Britain and France were the two European countries "with most in common" in the defence field, officials said. They singled out future co-operation in Africa where they have frequently disagreed over policy.

They will also emphasise the need for EU states to go it alone in peace-keeping and military operations when the US was loath to commit its forces. George Robertson, the defence secretary — who met his French counterpart, Alain Richard, in Paris yesterday — said that European countries needed to play a fuller role in

contributing towards their own security.

Kosovo had shown there was more Europe could do in a crisis. If recent planned air strikes had gone ahead, less than a third of the Nato aircraft involved would have been European, he told a meeting of the Western European Union.

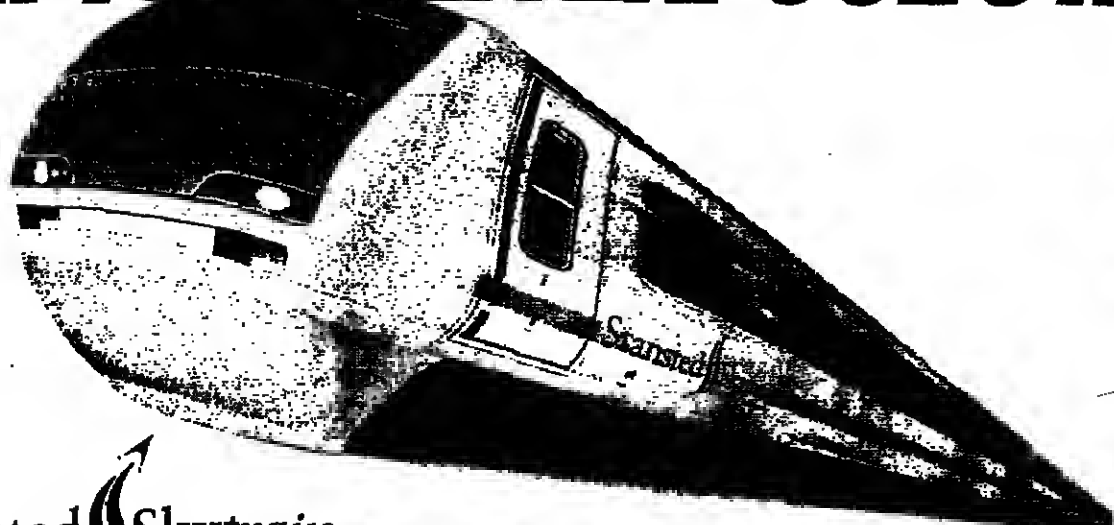
In Nato as a whole, added Mr Robertson, the European countries made up 60 per cent of the population but provided only 40 per cent of the defence spending.

However, the Foreign Office stressed that while the

Anglo-French summit would emphasise general principles as well as practical co-operation, it would not discuss the setting up of any new European defence or security institutions.

Mr Blair has made it clear that close European military co-operation must not weaken Nato. France's more independent stance within Nato, its reluctance to let French arms companies merge with British ones, and Britain's close intelligence links with the US, are all potential barriers to close defence links between the two countries.

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Veteran to be new

News in brief
Anwar 'victim' evidence in

Union estate seek

North Korea warn

Ocalan row raises the stakes in Istanbul stadium

Troops on alert for grudge match

Chris Morris in Ankara

SOME 22,000 police and paramilitary troops were posted on duty inside and outside Galatasaray's Ali Sami Yen stadium last night for the European Champions' League football match with the mighty Juventus of Italy.

The extraordinary security measures in Istanbul were ordered to prevent any outbreak of violence. The match had been postponed from last week because of continuing anger in Turkey about Italy's reluctance to extradite Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

The police feared the presence of provocateurs among Turkish fans known for their fanatical devotion to their team. A helicopter was reported to be on stand-by to whisk the players away if things got out of hand.

Although anti-Italian sentiments are still running high, and demonstrations are taking place daily across the country, politicians have appealed for restraint and promised that trouble-makers will not be tolerated.

"I invite our people to show common sense," the caretaker prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, said. "They should avoid doing anything which will help spread hatred on our enemies' behalf."

The gates at the stadium opened at midday and Galatasaray fans were queuing in the drizzle hours before kick-off. The police established two cordons around the stadium and promised to confiscate

banners and placards, lighters and loose change — anything which could be considered remotely threatening. "There's no need to have this ugly police around," a fan said. "We're just here to support our team."

Another said: "Nothing will happen, it will be a good game and we will win. We are gentlemen supporters."

Manchester United, who were received with banners proclaiming "Welcome to Hell" when they played a European match here five years ago, might beg to differ.

But Turkey realises the eyes of the world are upon it this time, with this game being televised live in 24 countries. Juventus's star-studded team was unhappy about coming to Istanbul in the circumstances, even though the Turkish government said it would guarantee their safety.

"We were kind of forced to go to Turkey to play. We're worried"

The team flew in to Istanbul yesterday, not the day before the game as required by Uefa regulations. The club could now be fined. Two Italian ministers arrived with the team; Rome said the Italian

government did not want Juventus to travel alone. The players certainly looked apprehensive on their arrival. The road from the airport to the team's hotel was closed to traffic, and the bus rushed through Istanbul streets.

Italian supporters have been urged to stay away, and the size of the security operation should make any large-scale violence unlikely. The front pages of yesterday's newspapers urged Galatasaray to win, but also appealed for dignity and calm.

Many Turks saw the postponement of this match as the latest in a long line of insults from Europe — a suggestion that Turkey could not control its emotions. "Now we should embarrass them with our hospitality," a newspaper said, "and then send Juventus home defeated."

The stakes are high on the field. Juventus need a victory to stay in the competition. A victory for Galatasaray would leave them on the verge of qualification for the next stage.

Match report, page 14



Some of the 22,000 police and paramilitary troops on guard at Galatasaray's stadium in Istanbul before the European Champions' League match against Juventus of Turin. Feelings against Italy are running high over its reluctance to extradite a Kurdish rebel leader. PHOTOGRAPH BY HANAN OZGUR

Jerusalem killing linked to 'serial stabber'

David Sharrock reports on the knifeman stalking Palestinians

A JEWISH knifeman who dresses in ultra-Orthodox garb and stalks Palestinians is believed to have claimed another victim.

Police fear that the murder yesterday of Osama Mousa Natshe, aged 41, a father of six who worked for the Jerusalem public works department, is linked to a previous fatal stabbing and five other knife attacks on Arabs in the city's ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim district earlier this year.

Natshe was attacked before dawn as he left home to go to work. Family members said he was able to stagger out a few details of his killer before he died.

"He was on his way to work. A masked man suddenly jumped out from behind a bus and started stabbing him with a knife," said Abdel Raouf Natshe, the man's cousin.

"He turned back towards home and shouted for his brothers. They came up, saw him soaked in blood and called an ambulance."

Jerusalem police commander Yair Yitzhaki said he was investigating links between this killing and six previous attacks on Palestinians. "He was stabbed by a man about whom I do not wish to speak at present," Mr Yitzhaki added.

The Israeli public security minister, Avigdor Kahalani, said: "Signs in the field indicate this is a murder with a nationalist background, police terminology for violence between Jews and Arabs."

Israel Radio said a knife found at the scene was inscribed with the word "revenge" in Hebrew, indicating that the killer was probably a Jew.

A court ruling has banned reporting details of the investigation, but newspapers have been able to say that in each

of the previous stabbings a nine-inch commando knife was used. In at least one case the knife was inscribed with the name of a Jew who was murdered in Jerusalem's Old City in February, suggesting a sectarian revenge motive.

The first victim of the Mea Shearim "serial stabber", as he has been dubbed, was a 14-year-old Arab errand-boy who worked for a grocery in the walled neighbourhood, a dense labyrinth where life rigidly follows the Torah. He was stabbed in the back.

The following five attacks took place within a 100-yard radius. Each was more vicious than the previous attack, culminating in the

'A masked man jumped out from behind a bus and stabbed him'

murder of Eshy Alkam, a labourer aged 51, in May.

Mea Shearim rabbis, alarmed by the intrusion of violence into their sealed way of life, issued an unprecedented *din rodef*, a religious court ruling stigmatising the knifeman as a traitor.

Palestinians have complained that the police have not done enough to catch the killer who preys on them, but the police counter that gathering information from the 20,000-strong Mea Shearim police territory has not been easy. Its ultra-Orthodox residents do not recognise the state of Israel, believing it a heresy.

The latest killing took place in Abu Tor, a mixed Jewish-Arab neighbourhood in south Jerusalem, on the other side of the Old City to Mea Shearim.

The change in location suggests that the threats issued by the Mea Shearim rabbis



A Palestinian is comforted after being overcome with grief at the death of Osama Mousa Natshe. PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN HENDLER

have forced the knifeman to move further afield.

Minor rioting in east Jerusalem marked Natshe's funeral. Hundreds joined the procession along the main thoroughfare of traditionally Arab east Jerusalem. Dozens

of marchers broke away and hurled stones at riot police, who fired rubber bullets. In a side street, Palestinians stoned an Israeli motorist, pulled him out of the car and then set it on fire, a Jerusalem police spokesman said.

Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian Authority minister for Jerusalem affairs, accused the Israeli government of inciting attacks against Arabs. Israel's mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, ordered the city to offer any help Natshe's

family required. Israel captured east Jerusalem in 1967 and annexed it, declaring the entire city its united capital in a move not recognised internationally. Palestinians regard east Jerusalem as their future capital.

Veteran Ecevit to be new PM

Chris Morris in Ankara

ONE of Turkey's veteran political leaders, Bulent Ecevit, who served as prime minister three times in the 1970s, was asked yesterday to form the country's next government. He pledged to lead the country to early elections next April.

His appointment was immediately attacked, however, by the leader of the largest party in parliament, the pro-Islamist Virtue Party, as a violation of democratic principles. Mr Ecevit's party, the Democratic Left, holds just over 10 per cent of the seats in parliament.

Mr Ecevit is expected to try to form a coalition with the two main centre-right parties, or possibly with the social democratic Republican People's Party.

Aged 73, Mr Ecevit was the deputy prime minister in the outgoing government, which fell last week under the weight of corruption allegations. He has not been accused personally, though, and he is still

regarded as one of the most honest men in Turkish politics.

After meeting the president yesterday, Mr Ecevit emphasised that his proposed government should not be seen as a lame duck, even though it would not hold office for long. "We have urgent problems which cannot wait for the elections," he said.

He promised to try to maintain economic stability, and to prevent any foreign countries taking advantage of Turkey's position. He referred in particular to the continuing dispute with Italy about the fate of the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

The choice of the staunchly secular Mr Ecevit will please Turkey's military leaders, because it rules out the possibility of the Virtue party playing a role in the next government. His policies will also be watched with interest from abroad. His lifelong policies include a strong strain of nationalism; he is a hardliner on the long-running Cyprus dispute.

News in brief

Anwar 'victim' gives evidence in sex case

THE prosecution in the case against Malaysia's former deputy prime minister yesterday produced its first witness to support charges of sexual misconduct against Anwar Ibrahim.

Azizan Abu Bakar told a Kuala Lumpur court that he had been a "continuous homosexual victim" of Mr Anwar, against his will. He read out a statement written last year claiming that "this heinous act" had been committed regularly during 1992, when he worked as a driver for Mr Anwar's wife.

Mr Anwar retracted this statement soon after making it in August 1997. But the prosecution alleges this was done after special branch officers had used psychological pressure on Mr Anwar's instructions. This is the basis for the charge of "corruption" against Mr Anwar now being heard by the court.

Yesterday Mr Anwar backed his original statement. Mr Anwar's defence says the retraction was genuine and that the charges were inspired by his political enemies. — John Gittings, Hong Kong.

Nixon estate seeks damages

A FEDERAL court in Washington yesterday began hearing a claim by the estate of former president Richard Nixon which seeks damages of \$200 million (£125 million) for the seizure of tapes and other papers taken by the government following the 1974 Watergate scandal.

The claim is the final lawsuit filed by Nixon before his death in 1994 and covers 3,700 hours of secretly recorded tapes, 42 million pages of documents and thousands of photographs.

Most 20th century US presidents have donated their papers and memorabilia to government-run presidential libraries. The Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California, is unusual in being privately operated. The government is contesting the case, which is expected to last six weeks. — Martin Keble, Washington.

North Korea warns of war

NORTH KOREA warned that a tough stance by the United States was bringing north-east Asia to the brink of war, yesterday, after reports in Japan that Pyongyang is preparing to test another ballistic missile. The war of words raised fears that regional tensions are intensifying in the wake of an earlier rocket launch over Japanese territory.

Japan confirmed that it possessed information that the North may be preparing for a test-firing. The Yonhap Shinbun newspaper said US spy satellites had spotted the North Korean military moving components of a Taepodong multi-stage missile from a storage site to a launch area. — Jonathan Watts, Tokyo.

Gates donates £60m for child immunisations in third world

Michael Ellison in New York

BILL GATES, until recently renowned more for his bank balance than his generosity, yesterday donated \$100 million (£60 million) to a programme to deliver vaccines to the world's poorest children.

Mr Gates, chairman of the Microsoft Corporation and the world's richest man with assets of at least \$60 billion, said: "The beauty of children's vaccines is that when

they're rolled out they'll save millions of lives."

The money will be used to introduce new vaccines against hepatitis B, haemophilus influenza type B (Hib), pneumococcus and rotavirus in countries that cannot afford to pay for them.

Each year hepatitis B kills about 1 million people, rotavirus claims the lives of about 800,000 children, and pneumococcus is responsible for up to 20 per cent of deaths of children under five.

"This is the largest infusion of private funds into vaccines ever," Gordon Perkin of the Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), which will run the Gates vaccine initiative, declared.

Mr Gates, aged 43, said the timing of the donation, which comes as Microsoft fights a court battle over its alleged monopoly, was coincidental and explained why he had waited to open his wallet.

"You can always look back and say 'Hey, I could have sold all my Microsoft stock when I was 30 years

old', but that would have been worth a small fraction of what it is now and that would have been all my philanthropy."

The Microsoft chairman, who says he will eventually give away 95 per cent of his fortune, has been trying to transform his image, which has not been enhanced by his evasive and sullen performance in a video shown during the court case.

Six months ago he and wife Melinda gave \$1.5 million to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

US researchers uncover clue to mysterious fate of aviator Earhart

A CLUE to one of the enduring mysteries of the century was unearthed yesterday when researchers produced new evidence about the fate of Amelia Earhart, who vanished while flying around the world in 1937, writes Michael Ellison.

It suggests that the American died on Nikumaroro Island in the Polynesian republic of Kiribati, rather than at the hands of the Japanese navy or because she crashed into the Pacific.

Researchers believe that bones found on Nikumaroro are those of Earhart. They were found in 1940 by

British soldiers who thought they might be part of the aviation pioneer's skeleton, but a doctor ruled this out. America was not told of the discovery.

The matter rested there until the intervention of the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, which has spent a decade investigating the case.

Richard Gillespie, the aircraft recovery group's director, tracked down the original archive material in England. Re-evaluation by forensic anthropologists indicates the bones are those of a woman of northern European extraction, who was about 5ft 7in tall.

Comment

Diary

Simon Bowers

A LETTER arrives from Diary fan Tim Allan's publicity department at Sky TV. "It has come to our notice that the Guardian will be indulging in Christmas festivities," it begins. "While you are gearing up for this licence to drink excessively, debauch and degrade your company name, we wish to highlight a more sinister element to this corporate revelry." This, we discover, is a reference to a Sky One documentary, Christmas Uncovered, to be filmed imminently. "Your party," warns the letter, "could provide them with the perfect material." Thanks for the tip-off, Tim. Timmy, you may recall, last featured in the Diary trousers down, peeling on the Highcliff Hotel flowerbeds during a Tory conference party in Bournehead. "If you don't put that away," suggested a policeman at the time, "you'll be arrested." Perhaps the Sky One camera crew will be interested to learn that Mr Murdoch is holding a party at the Reform Club for all News International staff. For which Rupert, in his unfaltering benevolence, has agreed to charge guests just £15 each. Maybe Timmy will be there.

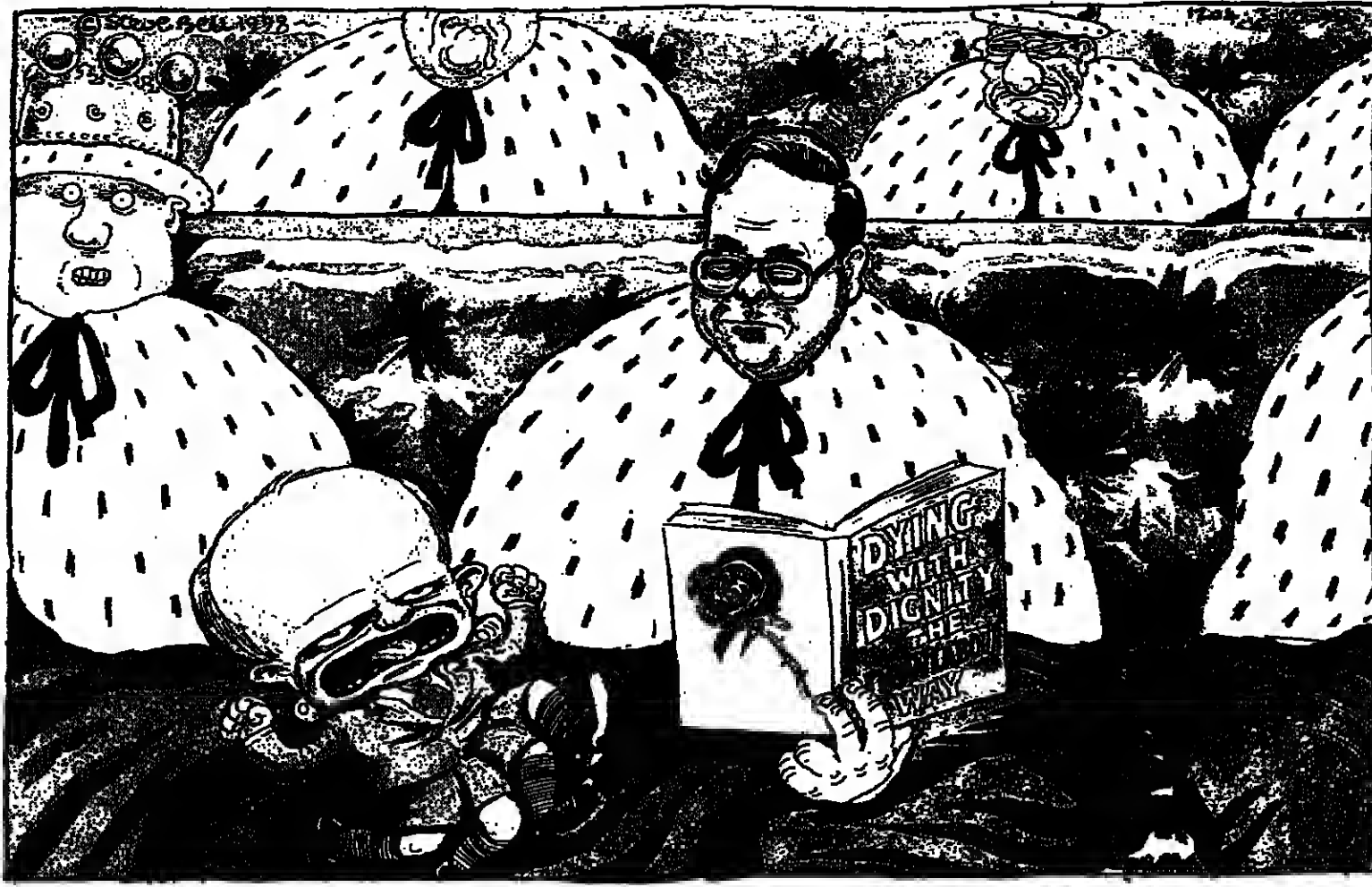
WE return to Andrew Morton's new book *Moi* (Michael O'Drill, £20), a biography of Daniel arap Moi, president of Kenya. Last week we highlighted Andrew's concern that if his book were to give a detailed rebuttal of every charge levelled against Moi, it "would cross the boundary from biography into public relations". Indeed, on closer examination, we are most impressed by the rigour with which this danger is avoided. Take the persecution of the outlawed opposition group, Mwakenya. They were a problem because allegations of torture were raising "concerns among western diplomats". He explains that the Kenyan police often prefer "a Route One method of extracting information, rather than the more painstaking approach of interviewing suspects and witnesses and collecting evidence". What exactly "Route One" is, we may never learn.

WE are appalled to learn of the ignominious treatment "Nicholas" Fatty Soames, received in Toronto on Monday. Having fed him well, the 15th annual dinner of the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy was treated to a rousing speech from Fatty on the subject of grandfather. As he marked himself back in his seat, Canadian journalist Andrew Coyne rose with a few words of thanks. What dear old Fatty thought when Coyne mistakenly referred to his grandfather as Hitler, we can only guess.

NOBODY, it is said, has a grasp of international affairs like Henry Kissinger. So, respectfully, a table of 100 of his finest dinners, assembled by Harry Evans, fell hush when Kissie turned to the topic of the day. "Of course Pinochet should go home," he said. "What's 6,000 people dead in two years? It's 10 a day. I don't call that genocide." Wiser words you will not hear.



REMEMBER this face? It's Michael Howard, looking pensive after an overnight stay in Brixton prison. Now Macmillan Cancer Relief has collected all the sponsorship money, the total has reached an incredible £80,000. "We were surprised and delighted," said a spokesman for the charity, "by how much people were willing to give". If the very thought of it still brings a smile to your face, why not write out a cheque to Macmillan Cancer Relief and send it to the Diary?



Unless he is reined in, Lafontaine could do a lot of reckless damage

Hugo Young



THIS is the Government's worst week since it came to power. For the first time it lost control of a big issue. There have been a few embarrassments — Formula One, Geoffrey Robinson, Sierra Leone — but never the sense that it could be dictated to, or succumb to alien forces in defiance of its mandate. Over Europe now its performance shows signs of combining the edgy arrogance of the Thatcher years with the helplessness of the Major period. Claiming in the Commons yesterday to be precisely otherwise, Mr Blair only emphasised how unconvincingly close the comparison appears to be. It is an extraordinary and unnecessary spectacle.

Here, after all, is a government afflicted by neither of the salient disabilities of its two predecessors. It does not seek, like the late Thatcher, to strut the anti-European Union stage. On the contrary it is extravagantly proud and self-consciously pro-European. This was one of its messages at the election. It promised to change the climate of Anglo-European relations, and in important respects has done so. Yet confronted with an initiative it does not like from the Continent, it can think of nothing more imaginative than to reach for the brute Thatcherite silence which fits so snugly into headline space.

But its nervous system should also surely be a long way from recreating Major's depleted facade of a government. Mr Blair has a huge majority and a party that shelters no significant dissenters from his desired approach to Europe.

As between him and Major, the freedom of political manoeuvre is incomparable. Yet the echoes of Major's sense of pique, hurt and incomprehension at the scheming continentalists were unmistakable this week. Although the Tory party cannot lay a glove on Blair, the Tory press seems to be finding him almost as sensitive a target as it did Major — as ripe for their bullying as vulnerable to their distortions, as alert to their agenda, as alarmed by their presumed political impact. And it is still three years until the next election. To be sure, there are ersatz Thatchers are large on the Continent. The lady's insatiable aggression is repeated in the performance of Oskar Lafontaine, the German finance minister. His threats against national sovereignty over tax show as little respect for the opinions of several other countries as her coarse rejection of the ERM in the middle 1990s. And now, apparently abet-

ted by Mr Strauss-Kahn for France, he puts the newborn centre-left hegemony over Europe in a pretty hurried perspective. Empty of concrete relevance though his words are, he does not behave like a politician who places a high priority on smoothing Britain's path into the single currency. So he is a trial for Mr Blair. All the same, the Government lacked coolness in response, showing a measure of fright that was out of line with its objectives and out of proportion to its strength. Reaching for the veto sounds like the termination of debate, although there are some tax harmonies — about evasion, about luxury — which Britain has every interest in discussing. To have talked instead about the need for unanimity

And now they are reaching for that brute Thatcherite silence — the veto

would not have made a tabloid headline, but it would have recognised this was a process rather than an occasion for a staccato reply. To have talked more about the allies Britain could certainly recruit and less about the solitary veto she was prepared to impose might have sounded like a retreat from macho-Thatcherism. But it would register that all these problems are Europe-wide, and not merely figments of a very British frenzy.

The danger of the disharmony we have seen this week is that it will begin to pollute other areas where things have really changed. In both the mechanics and some of the policies the British stance is trying to be much more positive. Europe between the parties and in the media may still be inadmissible for discussion here, other than as a war zone where there must always be a winner and a loser, but in the unregarded netherland where daily business is done, a new atmosphere prevails. Every Whitehall department operates under a personal Blair directive to consider the Euro-dimension of all it does, and large bilateral gatherings, such as today's with the French at St Malo, drive agreement forwards.

In the defence field particularly, Mr Blair's initiative towards a more integrated European military capability has excited France. It was being discussed at top ministerial level in Paris yesterday, and we may be sure will not be reported in the German press as a sinister move by the nuclear powers to conspire against Germany's sacred sovereignty — on the model of the British press's doomsday account of the similar bilateral event between Germany and France in Potsdam. An unhelpful curiosity of the present scene in Europe,

exemplified by Oskar Lafontaine, is the ascendancy of finance ministries over foreign ministries in the internal dynamics of the three main governments. In each case, the foreign ministry is weakly led in comparison with the finance ministry, and has relatively clear ideas about its role and range. Strauss-Kahn, Brown and Lafontaine each in their different ways, are more potent figures than Fischer, Cook and Vedrine. Although Lafontaine, warmly embracing Cook, may stand for the same kind of socialism as the British Foreign Secretary, it seems to be the fate of both Fischer and Cook to be allowed freer rein over Bosnia, Iraq and human rights than they enjoy on the central issue of the future of Europe. The real challenge this lays down however is to the respective heads of government, and in particular in the present context, Gerhard Schröder and Tony Blair.

Schröder is being out-faced by his finance minister and party boss, and thus finds his nascent desire to lead Germany from a roughly Blairite position being throttled at birth. Unless the Chancellor asserts control of the new German Euro-rhetoric, Lafontaine can do a lot of reckless damage, with no advantage to anyone.

Mr Blair's position is slightly different. He has no problem with either his party or his finance minister. They think alike. The trouble is that they also fear alike. They both seem to be half in thrall to the very forces which the electorate so resoundingly rejected in May 1997 — Euro-scoops and Euro-phobes who by then dominated the identity of the Tory Party and its backers.

The people voted not to revive the Thatcher-Major experiment but to cast it away — into perpetual oblivion. Britain needs a system that enfranchises the liberal majority. Straight AV does that, without the bells and whistles of the Jenkins report. From what is known about

the trouble with devising acceptable reform is that you can end up with one lacking electoral credibility. This is pretty much what the Jenkins commission came up with. It recommended AV, a complicated hybrid of the alternative vote, in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, with a top-up modelled on the additional member system. AV, plus seems designed to look opaque and contrived: the risk incurred by the Government in recommending this system in a referendum hardly bears thinking about. The risk we face already in the aftermath of the Jenkins report is that electoral reform will be stalled indefinitely. The Tories are bound to recover in time. Even a party that is thoroughly reaction-

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Our deep instincts condemn mass murder. But not sex

It's human nature

Salman Rushdie



MAN is by nature a political animal, said Aristotle, who argued further that the public life of a "good" society must reflect the nature of its members. Many of the great Macedonian assertions — that the slave is "naturally" inferior to his master, the female to the male, the "barbarian" to the Greek — now seem absurd. Yet Aristotle's basic proposition still rings true. The present travails of three leading political figures — Bill Clinton, Saddam Hussein and Augusto Pinochet — reveal how deeply we believe in natural justice.

President Clinton's probable escape from his domestic pursuers can be ascribed in part to his foes' astonishing folly. He has been lucky in his enemies: the sex-crazed, mealy-mouthed Kenneth Starr and his backers on the Christian Right, who remind us that "fundamentalism" is a term born in the United States. Newt Gingrich, who overplayed a winning card and lost his shirt, and Linda Tripp, the wicked witch of the wire who, like Nixon, did not understand that by bugging herself she would only prove her own villainy, even with the expletives deleted.

When an ancient force — puritanical fanaticism — combines with the contemporary tabloid dogma that public figures have no right to privacy, and when the Washington political and media elites work themselves up into a mighty pompous froth, even the President rocks on his throne. But Clinton survives, because he has human nature on his side. Human nature distinguishes between sexual dalliance and political misconduct. It can be brutal: asked to take a view about Monica and Paula, the American people replied that they just did not care. They have come to know Clinton far more intimately than they normally know their leaders and he, of course, has always known them better than any other politician. Clinton is winning his fight because he is like his people — because, you could say, he is a natural.

In the matter of Iraq, however, the US administration's understanding of human nature has been deficient, to say the least. The notion that bombing raids might provoke a coup against Saddam was always an improbable hypothesis. On the whole, people do not see as allies those who are dropping large quantities of high explosives on them from the sky. Like Yossarian, the hero of *Catch 22*, they take the bombs personally. Threatening to bomb and

then not bombing has the advantage of killing fewer people but the disadvantage of making one look silly. Apparently, some Iraqis seriously believe Paula Jones and Monica Lewinsky were pawns in an international Zionist conspiracy designed to make Clinton bomb Baghdad. The recent aborted American-British attack may demonstrate the declining international influence of these two ladies but otherwise plays right into Saddam's hands.

Those voices advocating a rapid end to sanctions and a subsequent opening up of the Iraqi market to western goods and ideas may not find much favour with America's military analysts, but an Iraq freed from the privations of the embargo and threat of aerial attack is more likely to think of the West as a friend. The best way to topple Saddam may be to help bring into being an Iraq in which his tyrannies are not only hateful but also anachronistic.

The case of the month's other "unnatural" figure ought to be getting easier. Pinochet, after all, has earned the right to be called the most evil man now alive on Earth (sorry, Saddam). The British law lords have decreed he is not immune from extradition. The crucial principle of universal accountability has thus been upheld. Atrocities is not to be excused by the occupancy of high office. All this has become clear in recent days. Why, then, has the Home Secretary asked for extra time to decide Pinochet's future? The ex-tyrant was well enough to hang out with Lady Thatcher the other day, but now claims that the pressure he is under has provoked a stress-related ailment. The families of the dead must be disgusted by this ruse. Pinochet must not escape on such flimsy "compassionate" grounds. Jack Straw should confirm at once that for the mass murderers of the world,

Pinochet is now the most evil man alive on Earth (sorry, Saddam)

there can be no compassion. "Human nature exists, and it is both deep and highly structured," writes Edward O. Wilson, the biologist and writer whom Tom Wolfe calls "a new Darwin". If it did not exist, let us be clear, then the idea of universals — human rights, moral principles, international law — would have no legitimacy. It is the fact of our common humanity that allows most of us to forgive Bill Clinton his faults, that will not allow us to agree that bombing innocent Iraqis is the right way to punish Saddam, and that makes us want to see Pinochet brought to justice. A world that hounded Clinton but turned a blind eye to Pinochet would indeed be a world turned upside-down.

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Labour must not panic — voting reform will keep the spectre of far-right fundamentalism at bay

Afraid of the dark

John Gray

THE Government faces an ironic turn of events. Britain now has a liberal majority. It does not always exhibit identical left-liberal attitudes, but across a wide range of issues a majority favours personal freedom and feels at home in a pluralistic democracy. Public opinion is unfazed by tabloid revelations about the sexuality of Cabinet ministers and indifferent or contemptuous to Conservative attempts to rally supporters of "traditional values". This is a phenomenon Labour strategists did not anticipate. The Government does not yet know quite how to deal with it. Labour came to power with the profound conviction that

18 years of right-wing government had imprinted conservative values on the national soul. Its wobbles on single-parent families and extreme testimony to the belief that Britain's political culture is not liberal or social-democratic but deeply conservative.

The Government's most distinctive and ambitious political project — Tony Blair's attempt to realign the Left beyond the tribal allegiances dividing it in the past — rests on a belief that the Conservative party can still muster a broad national coalition. It is Blair's respect for the Tories' legendary powers of recovery that has led him to press on with his discussions with Paddy Ashdown, despite increasingly loud rumblings in both parties.

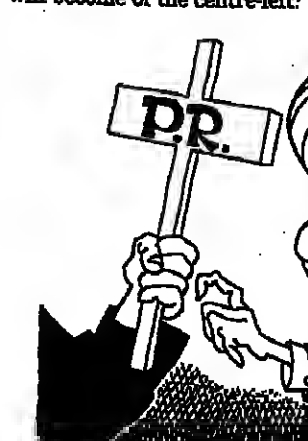
At present, to talk of the Conservative party as a serious threat to the Government is to invite ridicule. The Tories are hopelessly out of tune with the values of the age. Should we not, then, rest content with the astonishing fact that the silent, apolitical majority now leans to the liberal Left?

To give up on the project of the Left's realignment would be the worst imaginable response to the emergence of a liberal majority. Yet such an outcome is more likely now than a few months ago. The Jenkins report on electoral reform has set the agenda in a way that reinforces the status quo. Its recommendations have been made on the basis of an astute assessment of what is politically acceptable to the two centre-left parties.

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voters' preferences, it is likely that the first effect of AV would be to double the number of Liberal Democrats in the Commons, with little or no impact on Labour. The second is that the Conservative party would be forced back on to the centre ground in order to attract second and third preference votes.

By far the worst threat to liberal values in Britain is a resurgence of free-market dogma harnessed to moral fundamentalism. Electoral reform would drive that deadly combination back where it belongs, on the outer fringes of the Right. Will the staid pull of party loyalties allow this once in a century chance to slip away?

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'As you can imagine, Lara Croft has been a role model for our female scientists'
Bob Mannix, Letters

Cranborne sacked

Blair upstages Hague

THE LUCKLESSNESS of William Hague continues to be one of British politics' most enduring themes. Yesterday's twist in the saga should have brought a rare flash of good fortune, as he sprung a surprise on the House of Commons, revealing a backroom deal Labour had apparently sought with the Conservative leadership in the Lords. Mr Hague hoped to ambush the Prime Minister, seeking to expose him before his own party as a backslider and compromiser on a cherished Labour principle: the removal of the hereditary members from the upper house. For a second the plan appeared to work. Labour backbenchers were instantly hushed as Mr Hague revealed that their leader had covertly plotted to compromise on the principle by allowing a vestigial group of 91 hereditaries to retain their place in Britain's most exclusive club. That should have placed Tony Blair squarely on the receiving end of backbench fury and accusations of sellout.

But that's not how it worked out. Instead it was William Hague who wound up as the victim of the Hague manoeuvre. All his bombshell did was leave a gaping crater inside the Conservative party. Far from being forced on to the defensive, Mr Blair was able to attack Mr Hague as utterly at odds with his own leader in the Lords. Viscount Cranborne, who had already sanctioned the compromise with Labour, was peremptorily sacked last night. Earlier the Prime Minister skewered the Tory leader

both for humiliating his man in the Lords — by overruling him in public — and for exposing himself as less than fully in charge of his own party in Parliament. More deeply, Mr Hague has once again driven a wholly avoidable wedge through the Conservative Party, splitting Tory MPs from Tory peers on the one issue which is likely to dominate the next political year. Just as he did on the eve of his party conference, when he called a referendum on the single currency — thereby ensuring that the entire week was dominated by the Tories' most toxic question — so Mr Hague has once again created trouble where none needed to exist. As Mr Blair put it cruelly, his Tory counterpart appears to be on a "kamikaze mission" in which almost every strategic judgment he makes is wrong.

The politics, then, Mr Blair got right. But what of the policy? Our own view on the hereditary peers has not wavered: we would like them gone from our legislature as soon as possible. Aristocratic blood should not carry with it an automatic place in the nation's law-making body. But more important is the realisation of it. If Labour, Liberal Democrats and cross-benchers in the Lords are all convinced that the new plan represents the only way this vital reform can happen, without falling victim to ermine guerrilla warfare, then it is an irritating, but acceptable compromise. Progressives must remain vigilant, however, watching to ensure those 91 escapees do not quietly become part of the Lords furniture, staying on even in a supposedly reformed second chamber — unless, of course, they are democratically chosen. Radicals who were already determined to hold Mr Blair's feet to the fire to ensure this Stage One is followed by a final, democratic Stage Two will now have to keep their eye on this

development, too: Britain's blue-bloods have a Dracula-like knack for staying alive even when one imagines them finally vanquished. But — irrespective of what happens to it now, the Lords compromise appears to have been a good day's work by the Government. The Conservative presence in Westminster is in disarray, its leader badly damaged, while an essential piece of constitutional reform may have a better life expectancy than before.

Euroland's agenda

Lower interest rates for a start

THERE ARE 29 shopping days to the euro. Next month the 11 "Euroland" countries will consummate monetary union by merging their currencies and ceding power to the European Central Bank (ECB) fix interest rates. Britain as a non-member won't be directly affected, but might be indirectly because most of our trade is with Europe. And there is plenty to worry about. The ECB is even less accountable than the Bank of England, its operations more secret than other central banks and its inflation target could prove lethal.

The B of E's inflation target has been criticised because, unlike the US Federal Reserve, it doesn't take unemployment into account when it sets rates. But at least it has a fixed target — 2.5 per cent. If it is likely to undershoot, the Bank can reduce rates. But the ECB's target is a range — 0 to 3 per cent — which means it has no statutory duty to reduce interest rates until inflation has disappeared. By that time deflation or falling prices may have set in, creating the spectre of a downward spiral of falling prices. Japan is sliding dangerously near that precipice and Europe may not be far off. In France inflation is only 0.4 per cent and in Germany 0.6 per cent. Since the official figures probably overstate actual inflation, deflation may already be happening. Which is why Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's effervescent finance minister, is right to call for a change in the ECB's remit to take account of unemployment (to reflect the leftward drift in Europe's governance since the Maastricht treaty was signed). It is unacceptable that while the IMF is calling for more transparency in international banking, the ECB keeps its minutes secret. Wim Duisenberg, president of the ECB, even refuses to visit Euroland's 11 member parliaments to account for his actions — though he will appear before the (politically weak) European Parliament. Mr Duisenberg claims that the ECB is the most open bank in the world because it will explain its decisions rather than publish minutes.

That's a piffle, but all the more reason why the ECB must be decisive about lowering interest rates as soon as possible. With economic growth in Europe fading and inflation non-existent, there is an urgent need to reduce rates (now 3.5 per cent) to below 3 per cent to avoid deflation and reignite growth. Mr Duisenberg seemed to accept this earlier this week. He should now translate thoughts into action so rates can be reduced. There could be no better birthday present for Europe's new central bank.

Future disastrous

But forewarned is forearmed

THIS week a small earthquake in southwest China destroyed 8,000 homes and left 20,000 people homeless. Two earthquakes shook Yunnan in China last month, killing three but leaving 26,000 homeless in a freezing landscape. You can't see an earthquake coming, but you could prepare for it all the same. This — not that anybody has paid much attention to the first eight years of it — is the UN International Decade For Natural Disaster Reduction. A group of British engineers and scientists who have hammered out a report called *Forecasts And Warnings* to mark the decade have just been trying to ram home the big point: forewarned really is forearmed. Meteorologists saw Hurricane George coming and the warning got through: only three people died when it hit Louisiana in September. The weathermen also saw Hurricane Mitch seven days before it hit Honduras in October. But the Hondurans were not prepared: more than 24,000 were left dead, or missing. The Mexican government last week began warning people who live in the shadow of Popocatepetl, just before it began to rain fire from heaven. There are roughly 30,000 earthquakes a year. There are 500 volcanoes, 50 of which erupt every year, often harmlessly. These are ever-present dangers. But every year, there are another 90 million or so more people on Earth, so the number of potential victims is increasing exponentially. By 2000, one tenth of the world's population will live within destructive range of an active volcano. By 2000 around half of the planet's population will live in crowded, jerry-built cities vulnerable to earthquake, landslide, windstorm, flood and fiery cinders. More than 1.5 million have died in earthquakes just in this century. Consider the pot of risk already, then start piling more potential victims into it. Throw in global warming, with its inbuilt threat of increased hurricanes and more frequent flooding. Paradoxically, disasters could be something to learn to look forward to: that way, their potential victims would stand a better chance of surviving them.

Letters to the Editor

Lara Croft and virtual software

[SYMPATHISE with your correspondent (December 2) on the death of his wife from AIDS in Botswana. I have recently lived in that country and have seen the hundreds of funerals that take place every week. The underlying problem is the lifestyle of the Baswana and elders' behaviour in impregnating young girls. Counselors need to go round to each village and put over this message. Children in schools have an AIDS prevention programme, it is the adults who need the education. Maureen Sewell, Stourbridge, W Midlands.

As a staff member at the world's leading news outlet, I am disappointed to see you spout such nonsense. I cannot tell you how distraught we are to hear that Lara Croft (Pass Notes, December 1) is unlikely to come and drool over us. As you can imagine, she has been a real role model for our female scientists and engineers. In spite of our undoubted success in the real world, the endorsement of such a prominent virtual figure might have led to virtual funding and scientific discoveries on an unbelievable scale. Bob Mannix, Isis Facility, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, Oxon.

[SEE that the latest survey (Teachers get more class in social shake-up, December 1) lists computer operators (fine people) but seems not to mention systems analysts and programmers. Are we to assume that those doing the survey think that the software they used wrote itself? S Higgins, Staines, Middx.

FIVE thousand bankers lose their jobs (City crisis, December 1) — a price worth paying to protect manufacturing in the North-East. Peter Shortt, Oldham.

Oskar and the big picture

BEFORE Gordon Brown muddies the waters any further, let's get one thing straight: common fiscal and monetary policies are an inevitable consequence of a common currency and will be imposed by the market, if not by government regulation. The difference between Gordon Brown and Oskar Lafontaine is that whilst the former (supported, as he boasted on Radio 4, by the employers' associations) is implicitly arguing for competition between member states for jobs and investment to force low wages, low wages, "labour flexibility" and tight money throughout the EU, Lafontaine is explicitly arguing for a battle between suppliers and retailers (Shoppers caught in prices crossfire, November 28) when claiming that I accused UK retailers of maintaining high prices.

There are a number of reasons why UK retail prices are higher than those in the US. The US retail market is characterised by one distribution system, whereas here in the EU, a number of distribution systems operate side by side. More handling costs inevitably add to the price. Secondly, any manufacturer selling in the US only has to advertise in one language — English — in order to reach a consumer retail market of around 300 million people. To advertise to the 380 million consumers in the EU, requires advertising, packaging etc to be translated into something like a dozen languages.

Manufacturers relying heavily upon consumer advertising — particularly broadcast — also find it more expensive to advertise in Europe than in the US. Four big TV networks dominate the US media system, whereas the broadcasting system in Europe is considerably more fractured and therefore more expensive. Also, your comparison is between the price label in the US and that in the UK. US prices are quoted before the imposition of sales tax, whereas in the EU they are quoted after tax.

Maybe EU prices could fall to US levels if we were one federal state, with one language and one media system. 1994 anyone? Stephen Lock, Ludgate Communications, London.

THE Pensioners' Rights campaign has been calling for the end of the vicious and ubiquitous Euro tax. VAT bears down hardest on the poorest section of society. Harrowing of this tax, which is laid down in the Maastricht treaty, will further impoverish pensioners and families with young children. It lays down that children's clothing, books and many other essentials which are not taxed in Britain will be taxed to harmonise with Europe.

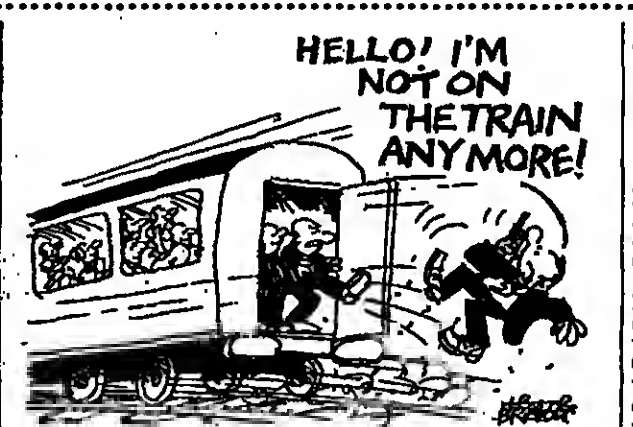
Mr Brown opposes taxing the rich (corporation tax and income tax), but is prepared to raise further taxation by the back door method of VAT. Charles Denton, Skelmersdale, Lancs.

HUGO Young (Tell us what you think, Tony, December 1) and your leader of the

same date missed the real point. The idea of the EU and, in the long run, the Euro will benefit us all. But while European Commission staff are honest and conscientious, the institution as a whole is corrupt and biased. We know a United States of Europe is anathema to the British people, in so far as the tabloid press keep telling us that it is. Does the tabloid press also tell its readers that global capitalism will be the worst of evils? Or that the ownership of our industry and businesses, and with them many of our jobs?

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Mobile phone terrorist cut off

LAST Thursday the Virgin Journey from York to Tain was as crowded and uncomfortable as we've come to expect. In our compartment, an obnoxious young man was engaged in almost non-stop phone conversations which he conducted in loud and self-important tones.

There were angry mutterings, polite requests for him to switch the mobile off, all to no effect. Shortly before Derby, an elderly man stood up and, shouting to attract attention, told him the train was about to stop. He switched the mobile off. "I didn't pay to suffer your insane waffle from Newcastle to Plymouth." At this everyone broke into spontaneous applause, though

the mobile terrorist appeared to take no notice until another grey beard entered the fray, courageously wrestling with him and forcing him to put the phone away. A wave of jubilation now swept through the crowded carriage as if a victory had been won against a minor Pinchochet. The rest of the journey was a good deal more cheery than usual with a feeling of wartime camaraderie in the face of a common foe. As we approached Gloucester the phone rang again but, such was the hostility, he pushed his way into the corridor and we could see him answering it outside the loo. Joy Peach, Whitby.

Silcott solicitor quashes opinion on legal commission

SIR Louis Blom-Cooper (Letters, December 1) is wrong to criticise Jeremy Hardy for not getting the law right. In fact, Mr Hardy draws attention to two important concerns about the Criminal Cases Review Commission. Mr Hardy is right that the commission, when deciding whether to refer a case to the Court of Appeal, should not try to second-guess the Court of Appeal's decision. The commission must refer a case if there is a real possibility that the Court of Appeal would consider that the conviction is unsafe. The "real possibility" test requires the commission to adopt a more flexible approach than that applied by the court. Otherwise the court's function is usurped.

Secondly, Sir Louis criticises Mr Hardy for suggesting that the commission is answerable to no one. But Mr Hardy is making an important point. One of the advantages of the commission is

that it is independent of the Home Office. However, one unwelcome consequence is that the exertion of parliamentary pressure on the Home Secretary on behalf of those who have been wrongfully convicted is no longer an option. Sir Louis points out that the commission is answerable to the High Court in judicial review proceedings. The High Court does have the power to quash decisions made by the commission on certain very limited grounds and we are examining whether those grounds may apply here. However, that is quite different from the Home Secretary being answerable to Parliament.

Lawyers should be cautious about criticising journalists who take the trouble to elucidate serious concerns about the way the law is framed and applied. Adrian Clarke, Solicitor for Winston Silcott, Bindman & Partners.

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Sabre-rattling Chilean generals must not override the rule of law in Britain

ERIC Hobsbawm is wrong when he argues that the immediate issue concerning the Pinochet case is the interests of the democratic process in Chile (Letters, December 2). It is about upholding the rule of law. The Criminal Justice Act 1988 gave our courts extra-territorial jurisdiction over acts of torture committed by public officials anywhere in the world, and it is inconceivable that Parliament would not have foreseen that a degree of political unrest would be caused by the exercise of this extra-territorial jurisdiction.

One can only conclude that Parliament gave precedence to the interests of human rights and the administration of justice, by extending this argument to the current extra-

dition case brought against General Pinochet, the interests of justice must take precedence over any other political considerations, including the state of democracy in Chile. We must not let sabre-rattling by the Chilean military affect the rule of law in our country. Andres Herrera, Northfield, Birmingham.

THE real issue is the message that a prosecution would send to all current and prospective dictators — a message that they are not free to destroy democracy by torturing and killing its supporters. To send Pinochet home now would send a completely different message which would give hope to those clinging on

to power by further repression. Andy Woolley, Rossendale, Lancashire.

THE Financial Times recently reported that a case of alleged corrupt dealings between Pinochet's son, Augusto, and the army was dropped on the president's orders. This is the reality which gives the lie to the Chilean Foreign Minister's assurances that the general will stand trial for his crimes if he is returned to Chile.

The reaction to Pinochet's arrest has drawn attention to the survival of some very ugly forces in Chilean society. Until these forces are faced up to, Chile's democracy will remain "endangered". Hobs-

awm proposes instead that they should enjoy yet another concession. Is pandering to the generals and the far right the way to achieve "democratic progress" in Chile? Prof Alex Callinicos, University of York.

AS a long-standing admirer of Eric Hobsbawm's work I am sorry to see that, for two months running, he is giving bad advice to New Labour. I suspect Tony Blair will have noted and ignored his advice on globalisation in the recent one-off issue of Marxism Today. I certainly hope Jack Straw does the same and rejects his advice to send Pinochet back to Chile.

I do not see how Eric can reconcile his two views. In

Marxism Today he argued that social democracy is resurgent and ripe for a challenge to neo-liberalism. In your letters page he argues that Chilean democracy is so weak that actually moving towards applying global principles of justice to Pinochet threatens a return to the past. I think not. Clir Steve Mumby, Liverpool.

LEADERS of the Chilean left, including survivors who were in office in 1970-73, told Hobsbawm that returning Pinochet to Chile would "do least harm to the chances of democratic progress". Are these the same political leaders who, in the summer of 1973, advised Salvador Allende that the way to preserve democracy was to give

Pinochet a seat in government? Historians should learn from mistakes of the past, not repeat them. Chris Harman, London.

THE suggestion that General Pinochet should lodge with Margaret Thatcher whilst on bail has not been followed up. However, making him live on the same housing estate as Bruce Forsyth and Russ Abbot comes a very close second. John O'Dwyer, Houghton Regis, Beds.

MAYBE Pinochet should stay in Wembley Stadium whilst he awaits his fate. Martin Davidson, London.

A legend with the lens

A black and white photograph of a man walking on a beach. He is wearing a dark jacket and trousers. In the background, there are other people on the beach and a large, dark, rocky structure.

Robert Mitchum in a scene from *Ryan's Daughter* ... Freddie Young was 70 when he completed his gruelling 15-month spell on the film

Brian Baxter
Frederick (Freddie) A. Young, cinematographer, born October 9, 1902; died December 1, 1998

The ancient Greeks had a pictogram for it

One of the clay tablets containing Linear B, and John Chadwick, who helped to decipher it

Lifetime of laughter in strips and scripts

Making the blues with wire and nails

re-enactment, *Battle of San Pietro* was an important personal account of war for Huston and it was banned for this reason. It was the first time the real carnage of infantry combat, involving Americans, had ever been seen on the screen. Fortunately the film survives and the authentic sequences are featured in *John Huston - War Stories* which was screened during the London Film Festival.

stream from where I found the fish, and tracking at various times of the year has revealed they stay there even in the coldest weather. In contrast a heron had not fared as well as the otter: it lay dead on the side of the burn at the bottom of our paddock. I suspect it had become too weak in the recent cold snap to make it to the coast. It was sad to see the crumpled heap of dead feathers, the long spindly legs and the dagger-shaped bill that was impressive even in death.

San Pietro is definitely not a re-enacted combat film, nor does it include scenes of "GIs bundling their dead uncereemoniously into body bags." These scenes are a tender, deeply respectful moment in

deeply respectful moment in

It's the poor who suffer, page 12

Tomorrow: GEC looks to the future

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FinanceGuardian

Ministers face hefty bill for state aid

BMW drives hard bargain

David Gow
Industrial Editor

BMW, the Rover car maker's German owner, will press the Government for hundreds of millions of pounds in state aid as the price for going ahead with its £2.1 billion investment to build a new medium-sized car at its Longbridge plant.

The chairman of BMW, Bernd Pischetsrieder, yesterday said that his board has so far approved only around £400 million of capital to build the new Mini.

This is despite the ground-breaking deal brokered with unions that envisages at least 2,500 job cuts, radical changes in working patterns, slashing of overtime and deep cuts in agreed pay increases in the next two years in exchange for a 35-hour week.

The deal, which David Gow, Rover's personnel director, claimed breaks the "old mould" of British manufacturing, is expected to be approved by the company's 38,000-strong workforce in a secret ballot over the next few days after a strong recommendation from union officials and shop stewards. The result is due on December 11.

It had been expected to trigger up to £2.7 billion of investment at Longbridge on top of the £2.3 billion BMW has invested in Rover since it took over in 1994.

The bulk of this, between £800 million and £1 billion, is to make the ageing plant ready for the Rover 200 and 400 series' replacement, which is due to go into production in 2002 and is designed to expand BMW's sales worldwide.

Rover's German parent plans to produce 500,000 of the medium-sized cars a year, compared with 150,000 new Minis.

Mr Pischetsrieder would not reveal the amount of state aid BMW is seeking, although analysts suggest it could be as much as £250 million. He said BMW is seeking, although analysts suggest it could be as much as £250 million. He said BMW is seeking, although analysts suggest it could be as much as £250 million.



Ins and outs... Walter Hasselkus (above left) with Bernd Pischetsrieder at yesterday's press conference in London, and (below) Werner Sämman

tion from other car firms receiving grant aid.

Larry Brooks, Rover negotiator at the engineering union MSF, said the unions would back BMW's case with ministers. But he insisted that the board would not have gone ahead with the Mini investment at Longbridge unless the company had already agreed to build the new medium-sized car there, too.

Tony Woodley, chief union negotiator, said: "I can't believe that, based on normal criteria for grant aid, that agreement won't be struck between BMW and government. I have no doubt whatever that a medium-sized car will be built in Longbridge."

Mr Pischetsrieder warned that the board wants other conditions met before approval is given. These include a lower value for stamp duty, preferably with the UK in planning to enter the single

currency with the pound at 2.65 to the mark rather than the current DM2.78.

The BMW chairman also sent a shiver through Midlands component manufacturers by demanding that they lower their prices and improve quality, or Rover might be forced to source most of its parts abroad.

This took the shine off Mr Woodley's assertion that the deal could save up to 50,000 Midlands jobs, particularly among suppliers.

Under the deal, which will bring Rover annual savings of £150 million from 2000, production employees will shift to a four-day working week, with "standard" hours cut to 35 from 37, plus overtime now Saturday working will be treated as normal up to midday but will not be compulsory if staff fulfil their quota by early starts and shorter lunch breaks during the week.



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: KIERAN DOHERTY

Affable UK chief quits to make way for technocrat

David Gow

ABOARDROOM row made BMW tighten its grip on Rover's operations yesterday by appointing a Bavarian engineer to head its UK subsidiary and the surprise resignation of Walter Hasselkus as chairman.

Dr Hasselkus, an affable lawyer turned salesman, agreed to become the sacrificial lamb for Rover's disastrous performance, including projected £500 million losses this year. He will be replaced by Professor Werner Sämman as part of a management shake-up that brings German engineering and technical expertise to the fore.

Citing a Latin phrase, Dr Hasselkus insisted he had jumped rather than been pushed. But the BMW board has come under pressure at home to wield the scalpel among Rover's top managers as the share price has tumbled and its huge investment has failed to pay off in earnings and market share.

Key members of the board, led by Wolfgang Reitzle, a former Rover chairman, are known to have pressed... Bernd Pischetsrieder, the BMW chairman, to cut their losses and pull out of Rover altogether.

Expressing regret at Dr Hasselkus's abrupt departure, senior union sources said: "Without Bernd Pischetsrieder's personal support and commitment we would have had difficulty in getting an agreement

and may even have had no Rover at all."

Dr Hasselkus, Rover's chief executive since September 1996, said he had taken his decision because "somebody has to be prepared to stand and be counted".

He added: "Rover's performance was influenced by a lot of external factors beyond our control but you can't just blame these. We got it simply wrong in not accepting the fierceness of the competition in the British market."

"This was a very difficult and painful decision for me, not least because I'm emotionally very attached to Rover, the management team and all its employees. I've even learned to like Tony Woodley (chief union negotiator)."

Prof Sämman, who has worked for BMW since 1976, has been head of its engine and suspension division since 1992 and takes over at Rover on January 1. "He's not a hatchet-man but someone who can lead us forward," a senior Rover official said with obvious relief.

Rover officials said privately that Dr Hasselkus had been the victim of changed circumstances, notably the strong pound and the Asian crisis which had depressed the car firm's market share. Observers also pointed to the gap between running down old models and launching new ones.

*He, Rhodes, his saltus (Here is Rhodes, here I jump).

Notebook

Change is needed in the Interim



Alex Brummer

THE speed with which the process of international economic reform is moving now is impressive. It was inconceivable even a few months ago that finance ministers would consider an emergency meeting of the IMF's Interim Committee in January — but that proposal is now bowing along.

The main reason for this high-level response to the scale of the crisis, as demonstrated when President Clinton showed up at a meeting of industrial and emerging market finance ministers in Washington. The crisis is not over. Michel Combes, as grudging with the Russians; the World Bank (in its new global economic prospects) is forecasting the second-worst outlook for developing countries for 30 years and the effects are being felt in the most developed countries, as the Boeing lay-offs demonstrate.

But gatherings like that planned in Washington for January do not just happen. They are part of a process. This has largely been driven by the Bundesbank president, Hans Tietmeyer. Other issues include the incorporation of the costs of good monetary and fiscal conduct into the IMF's inspection procedures and addressing issues of social exclusion in IMF programmes. The process of moving towards greater transparency, it is hoped, would ease some of the uncertainties which have arisen with free and open capital markets.

Finally, the Interim Committee, now headed by the Italian Carlo Ciampi, needs to reform itself. The French have talked of transforming it into an IMF Council, envisaged at Bretton Woods but never fully implemented. However, that may involve some complex shifts in shareholding; never easy. The critical issues are giving the Interim Committee an executive role and making its membership more relevant to where emerging-market power is now vested: if the IC fails to modernise, its members will have no one but themselves to blame were authority to shift to an alternative institution such as the G22, set up by the Americans and involving all the key emerging-market economies.

Deutsche ambition

SOMEWHAT predictably, Deutsche Bank's \$10.1 billion takeover of the second-line US financial institution Bankers Trust is proving fraught with all the usual difficulties: where the jobs are will fall; who will receive bonuses; and in particular who will be singled out for the \$400 million of golden handouts. Against the background of greed and hostility, Deutsche Bank's swoop on Credit Lyonnais Belgium should be relatively tame.

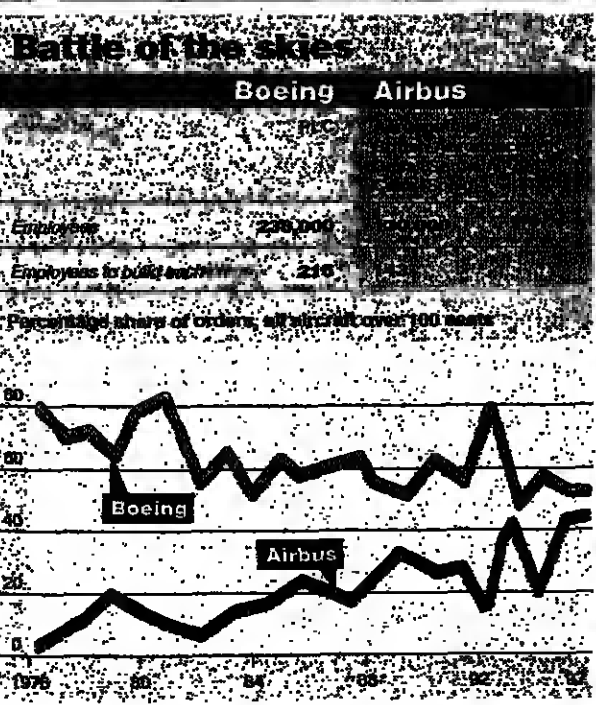
Quite sensibly, Deutsche's chief executive, Rolf Breuer, has set his cap at a European target. Deutsche has recognised the need, prior to the launch of the euro, to build a big network across Europe as feasible — the kind of thing Martin Taylor at Barclays might have talked of in his most expansive moments.

The new acquisition gives Deutsche Bank Belgium's seventh-largest bank with 38 branches to add to the network it has built in Italy and Spain. Ironically, what is still missing is Germany's partner at the heart of Europe — France — which is exceedingly communitarian except when it comes to foreigners, even Germans, owning its financial system. Efforts, for instance, to make a play for Credit Commercial de France when it was sold off were thwarted. One imagines that Deutsche's stakeholders are much more comfortable with its progressive European strategy than with its foolhardy efforts to become a world-class investment bank.

High street angst

REMEMBER the crisis at Marks & Spencer? The dole meltdown in the high street, how Sir Richard Greenbury had lost his touch, why the company needed an infusion of new blood and all of that? Now we know that the 23 per cent plunge in profits was not simply a St Michael phenomenon.

The lesser retailers are joining the parade. Arcadia, the newly disguised owner of Burton, has reported "a sharp downturn in high street spending" which is putting profit margins under pressure. Allied Carpets has signed up to the gloom, talking about an 8.2 per cent sales decline in the first 22 weeks of the financial year. Christmas may change things. But with job losses starting to speed up and stock market confidence again in retreat, as Ronald Reagan would say, you ain't seen nothing yet.



Suppliers fear nosedive after Boeing job cuts

Mark Tran in New York

BOEING'S 350 British suppliers are expected to be crippled by the company's plans to scale back production levels and slash 48,000 jobs.

The US planemaker yesterday warned that next year's financial results would be sharply down from previous forecasts. The job cuts amount to a 30 per cent reduction in Boeing's workforce from 338,000 in June. Seventy per cent of Boeing's European suppliers are based in Britain. British Aerospace, which makes small components for the affected models, and engine-maker Rolls-Royce said it was too early to tell if any action was needed. Smith Industries, which manufactures electrical controls for Boeing, has cut back its operations. Boeing shares plunged yesterday, dragging down Wall Street, after the world's largest aircraft maker shocked analysts with lower profit forecasts despite cost-cutting. The Seattle-based aircraft maker is America's biggest exporter. Alan Mulally, Boeing Com-

mercial Airplane Group president, blamed Asia's economic slump for the company's latest manoeuvres.

Boeing's decision to scale back production of passenger planes did not surprise Wall Street. But analysts were stunned by the downward revision of profit margins despite cost-cutting. Boeing said its commercial aircraft operating margin for 2000 could be 1 per cent to 3 per cent, a decline from the 1999 estimate. Boeing has been offering discounts on its aircraft under intense competitive pressure from Airbus Industrie, the European consortium.

It is still reeling from its decision in 1996 to crank up production to record levels to meet booming demand from the world's airlines and to win orders against Airbus. But it could not deliver. Costs soared because of overtime payments and assembly lines did not arrive in time.

Last year, Boeing took a \$4 billion charge and made a loss of \$173 million, its first in 50 years. It is still committed to delivering 650 planes this

year, a record 820 in 1999 and 490 in 2000. Total sales in 1999 should come to \$56 billion, declining to \$50 billion for the following year.

Boeing said it would reduce production of 747 jettisoners from 3.5 to two aircraft a month late next year, and to one a month in early 2000, if market conditions failed to improve. Production of 737

jets will drop from five to four a month and the 767 programme will drop from four to three aircraft a month in early 2000.

The latest job cuts surprised Boeing employees. Union leaders said they were given no warning. "It's affected everyone pretty badly. Everybody's scared they're going to get laid off," said a worker on 777 jettisoners at Boeing's Everett assembly plant.

Airbus partner to hire extra staff

David Gow

DASA, the German partner in the Airbus consortium, is expected to underpin the sorry performance of arch-rival Boeing by taking on hundreds of new employees to meet record orders.

Owned by DaimlerChrysler, Dasa has already employed some 1,000 new staff this year in its Airbus operations and is likely to announce more new jobs later today.

Deriding Boeing's decision to blame its latest round of 20,000 job-losses on the 18-month-old Asian crisis as "a bit naive", Airbus officials said worldwide orders for aircraft remained at a peak despite the economic downturn.

Airbus is made up of four partners: British Aerospace, France's Aerospatiale and Spain's Casa as well as Dasa. Together they employ around half the staff of their American rival.

Greys attack ageist firms

Patrick Collinson

GREY POWER groups yesterday launched a coalition against workplace and financial ageism, demanding laws to forbid age discrimination in job adverts and to ban age questions on application forms.

The coalition, Equal Rights on Age, calls the Government's voluntary code of practice on age discrimination, unveiled just two weeks ago, "toothless" and ineffective in fighting "deeply entrenched attitudes".

ERA members include Age Concern, Help the Aged and The Association of Retired and Persons Over 50. It is backed by MPs Quentin Davies and Linda Perham, who have both tried to introduce legislation to ban age discrimination.

In 1976, 95 per cent of men aged 55-65 were employed. Now the figure is closer to 60 per cent as "downsizing" has disproportionately hit older workers. More than eight million people have suffered from ageism, according to a Gallup poll, with job discrimination now beginning as soon as people hit their early forties.

the right to seek compensation at industrial tribunals for age discrimination.

Forty-four-year-old Laurie McBirney of Paignton in Devon, went back to college after losing his job, learnt new skills, joined job clubs and did voluntary work. Yet he has not been able to find work for three years and is convinced his age is the issue.

"A lot of companies say they have an equal opportunities policy, but their application forms may as well say 'Don't apply if you are over 40'."

He says employers should be forced to disclose how many people they have interviewed who are aged 40 or over.

Model anti-ageist employers, such as DIY retailer B&Q, were praised at the launch of ERA yesterday. ERA chairman Don Steele said: "B&Q has one store in Macclesfield where all the employees are over 50. Staff turnover is down 65 per cent and profits are up 16 per cent."

ERA will also focus on financial ageism. Mr Steele adds: "Only this morning I received a letter from a 67-year-old who went to buy a new Vespa, only to be told that the zero-interest credit offer was not available to her because she was too old."

Taylor was right, leading shareholders tell caretaker chief executive

Barclays pressed to split

Jill Treanor

LEADING shareholders in Barclays are understood to be telling the bank's two top executives that they should follow Martin Taylor's plans to split the group and seek mergers for the retail and corporate banking businesses.

The bank's acting chief executive, Sir Peter Middleton, along with outgoing chairman Andrew Buxton, are meeting all the bank's leading shareholders to calm their anxieties after the unexpected resignation of Mr Taylor as chief executive last week.

One of Barclays' largest institutional investors said yesterday that Mr Taylor's intended strategy of breaking up the group, had "pretty strong" support from shareholders. "We don't want to see a retrenchment from that strategy," he said. "Our view is that Barclays needs to participate in the industry consolidation."

Sir Peter and Mr Buxton are expected to face increasingly vocal demands from shareholders insisting that the structure of the bank should be changed. Confusion continues to surround the cause of Mr Taylor's departure, but it is believed that one of the reasons which forced him to leave was the board's rejection of his idea of having off the bank's retail banking business. Mr Taylor then wanted to pursue a merger of the remaining retail banking business with another financial institution. It is understood.

The leading shareholder said yesterday that the bank should continue discussions about mergers. "I believe they have been talking for quite some time [to potential merger partners]. Prudential, the leading insurer, continues to be cited as a possible partner,

as does Halifax. Sources however refuse to rule out the possibility of a tie-up with any of the country's leading players. Mr Taylor is thought to have presented his radical break-up plans to shareholders before he left and had started to win support. However, the board was eager to detail the plan as it might leave the bank more attractive as a takeover target. One senior banker also warned against the idea of splitting off retail banking from corporate and investment banking because of the increasing needs for more complicated financing for retail investment

products. Other large shareholders are believed to share this concern and the scene may be being set for a battle between the main shareholders. During his five years at the helm, Mr Taylor sold off much of BZW, the bank's troublesome investment banking arm, but rolled-up the remaining bond business into Barclays Capital, which has continued to cause headaches. Some sources believe Mr Taylor wanted to disband the entire investment banking operation last year when the sale of BZW was underway. But, again, pressure from the

bank's board led to the establishment of Barclays Capital. When the Russian crisis struck, Barclays was forced to admit that it had run up losses of £250 million as a result of its trading activities. The bank was then forced to produce another £180 million to help bail-out the Long-Term Capital Management hedge fund.

Barclays refused to comment but a week ago Sir Peter said he would not be spinning off any part of the group. The potential for a fall in their shares continues to be held back by bid speculation. They lost 19p to end at 1319p.

World's poorest will bear brunt of global crisis

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

THE World Bank said yesterday that more than a quarter of the population of developing countries — just over a billion people — will suffer falling living standards as a result of the global economic crisis.

Industrialised nations are expected to emerge relatively unscathed with a sharp slowdown in economic activity but developing countries will bear the brunt, with 36 countries experiencing negative per capita growth in 1998, says the Bank.

Even that gloomy scenario hinges on a number of optimistic assumptions, the Bank claims, including no worsening of the recession in Japan, no choking off of private capital flows to Latin America and no stock market crashes in Europe and the United States.

"There is still a substantial risk that the world economy will plunge into recession in 1999 rather than experiencing the sluggish growth described in the baseline outlook," said the Bank in its annual report on economic prospects for the developing world.

Under its baseline scenario, global output growth will be nearly halved, from 3.2 per cent in 1997 to 1.8 per cent in 1998, and revive only modestly to 1.9 per cent in 1999.

While Europe is forecast to enjoy strong growth and the US to have a soft landing, de-

veloping countries are expected to suffer the second worst slowdown in the past 30 years. In per capita terms, growth is expected to slow to 0.4 per cent in 1998, well below the 1.4 per cent expected in industrial countries, while 36 countries, including Brazil, Russia and Indonesia, are likely to see negative per capita growth this year.

The World Bank said the Asian crisis already ranks with the Latin American debt crisis in the 1980s.

"For example, the worst one-year output declines in the Latin American countries during the debt crisis ranged from 3.5 per cent in Brazil to 17.2 per cent in Chile," said the Bank's report. "Indeed, the one-year declines in industrial production of 50 per cent or more in Thailand and Indonesia are comparable to those in the United States and Germany during the Great Depression."

At a press conference in London, Uri Dadush, of the Bank's development prospects group, said that developing countries would suffer most because the crisis had cut global demand for basic commodities, upon which the developing world depended for income.

There had also been a dramatic flight of capital from so-called emerging markets. If this continued, the world economy would suffer from a shock of similar magnitude to the one which hit East Asia.

Profits warning as shoppers stop buying

Price-cutting causes pain for Arcadia

Roger Cowe

ARCADIA, Britain's second-highest clothing retailer, issued a shock profits warning yesterday which emphasised the slump in consumer spending over the past few weeks and the extent of bargains in the shops. Warning of poor sales and pressure on prices from the group follows news of tough times from other retailers, including Marks & Spencer and Debenhams. The grim picture is likely to be reinforced today by CUS, the mail-order leader, whose sales pattern will give indicate what retailers can expect over the next few weeks.

Arcadia, whose brands include Dorothy Perkins, Burton, Top Shop, Evans and Principles, was forced to issue a trading statement ahead of the publication of a stockbroker's circular from Warburg Dillon Read. The group said sales had slipped since the publication of last year's results at the end of October, and there was little hope of improvement over the crucial Christmas period.

"There has been a sharp

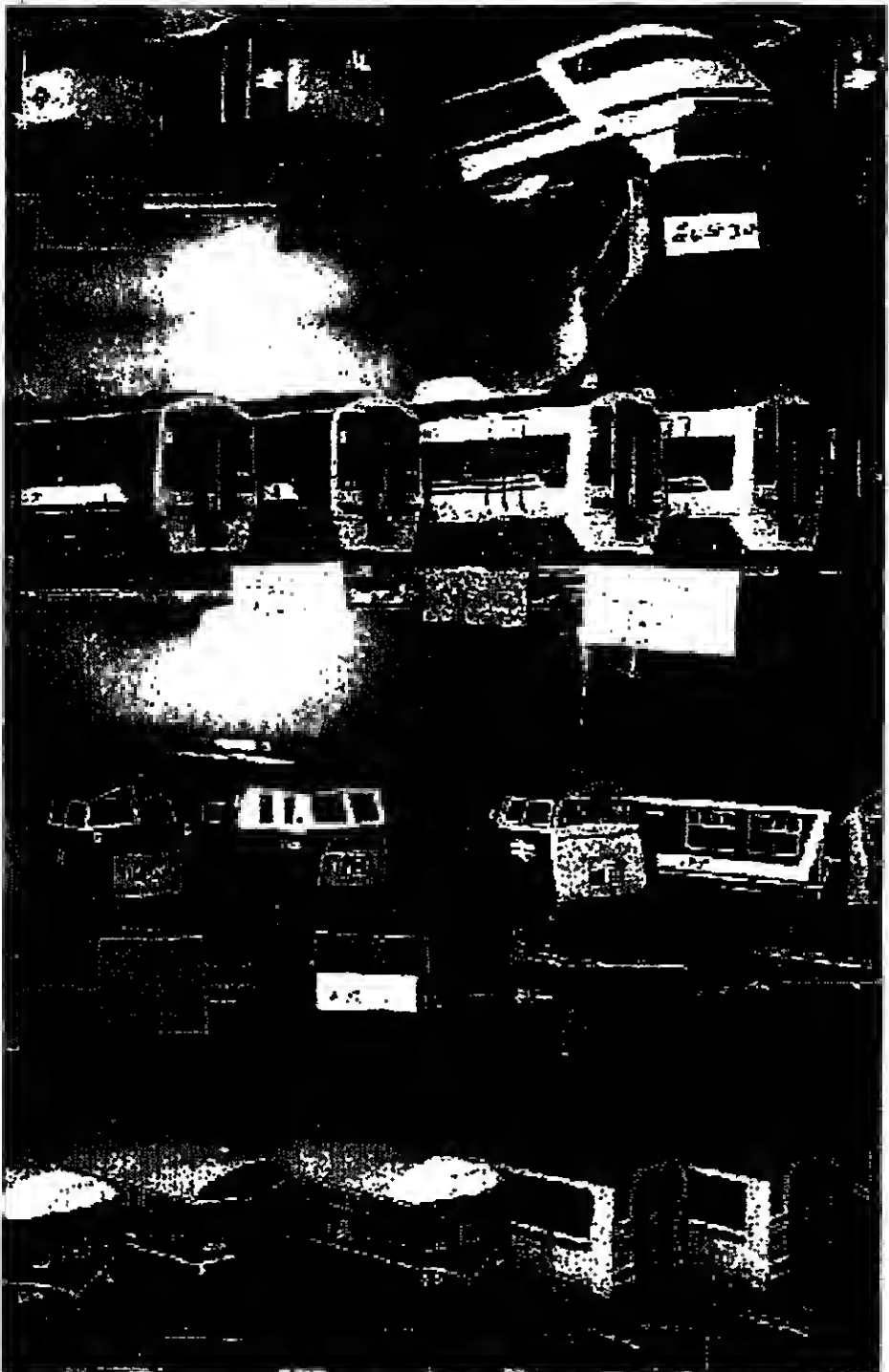
downturn in high street spending," the company said. "The outcome of the first half remains uncertain, with important trading weeks still to come ahead of Christmas. However, with sales to date falling short of expectations, the outlook for the half is not as encouraging as previously anticipated."

Lower prices, driven by special offers, have been as important in hitting Arcadia's profits as customers' reluctance to spend. The company blamed "high levels of markdown-driven competitor activity" and stressed that the weeks leading up to Christmas are normally a period of full-price sales.

The widespread discounting reflects the slump in consumer spending since the summer, after stores had ordered their Christmas merchandise. The discount frenzy has been reinforced by Marks & Spencer's "autumn value" campaign, with prices 10 to 15 per cent below normal levels in order to clear the season's stocks without resorting to huge sales campaigns. Nick Bubb, an analyst with Societa Generale Strauss Turnhill, said: "There are volume pressures and margin pressures. Christmas is going to be poor. To undershoot in November is quite a shock, especially when the weather has been relatively kind compared to last year."

In 1997, the warm autumn restrained demand for winter ranges. This year's weather has been more typical.

Arcadia said the poor sales picture applied across the board, with no discernible difference between menswear and womenswear or between the younger chains such as Top Shop and outlets catering for older customers.



Shunted into the sidings... Hornby rolling stock's not moving

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Hornby sales run off the rails

Julia Finch

SALES of Hornby model trains and miniature railway equipment have hit the buffers. Yesterday the company, founded in 1920, warned that this year's profits will fall below the £1.8 million recorded last year.

In an attempt to cut costs, Hornby is to shift almost all its model railway production, together with a new range of controllers and other electronic equipment, to the Far East. Almost all the company's products will be manufactured in China from next year.

Hornby was unveiling first-half profits down 56 per cent from £570,000 to £232,000 as sales fell by 15 per cent to £3.4 million.

The company blamed the downturn in its fortunes on retailers postponing orders in order to cut their stock levels. The strong pound made exporting "more difficult" and overseas sales were down 25 per cent.

Earlier this year Hornby was at the centre of takeover speculation and its shares rose to 322p, that the Stock Exchange ordered the company to clarify its position. Hornby dismissed the rumours and the shares have gone into reverse. In the wake of yesterday's profits warning, they slid a further 37.5p to 147.5p, a new low for the year.

"This disappointing performance reflects the downturn in our UK and export markets," said the company. "It is difficult in current trading conditions to predict accurately an outcome for the full year, but inevitably profits will fall short of those achieved last year."

News in brief

Disgraced Newcastle pair get boardroom backing

THE boardroom battle at Newcastle United FC took a new twist yesterday as it emerged that three of the directors want disgraced former executives Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd to be reinstated. Hall and Shepherd, ousted from the boardroom in March after a lurid newspaper exposé, informed chairman Denis Cassidy last Friday that they intended to use their 64 per cent stake in the club to vote themselves back into the boardroom at the club's annual general meeting next Monday.

Cassidy immediately postponed the meeting and has threatened to resign rather than allow the pair to return. He claims he was given an assurance when he took the job in July that the two men would not try to make a comeback. But yesterday a spokesman for Hall and Shepherd said Cassidy was not given any guarantees. And it emerged that the club's chief executive, finance director and property director were supporting Hall and Shepherd.

The spokesman added: "It is quite wrong they should be outside the boardroom looking in. They are determined to press ahead." — Julia Finch

Marley cements union

LONG RUNNING bid target Marley yesterday succumbed to a £268 million offer from Baxi, the unlisted Baxi-based building materials group. The offer of 125p a share compares with Marley's closing price of 122p, a rise of 15 per cent on the day.

Canio Corbo, chief executive, said the combined group would have "powerful positions in a number of markets, notably roofing, plastic building products, cement board, plasterboard and flooring". The companies did not give any indication whether any jobs would be lost in the merger which brings to an end a lengthy period of uncertainty for Marley. The company which is 15 per cent owned by Phillips & Drew, made profits of £38.2 million on sales of £382 million last year and has assets of about £232 million. — Lisa Buckingham

Building industry still in decline

THE construction industry shrank for the third month in a row in November as workloads continued to fall amid slowing economic growth, according to the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply's monthly survey published yesterday. Orders, employment and purchases of raw materials all fell at the fastest rate in the survey's history.

Based on data gathered from a poll of UK business executives, the seasonally adjusted construction activity index registered 45.8 in November against 45.7 in October. Any reading above 50 indicates an expansion of activity; any reading below shows a decline. "The principle reason for the contraction in overall construction activity was again simply that less work was available," said the CIPS. — Mark Atkinson

Brewer's £101m defence

MARSTON Thompson & Evershed, the regional brewer, yesterday stepped up its defence against the £220 million hostile bid from its rival Wolverhampton & Dudley by promising its shareholders a £101 million cash bonanza. The Office of Fair Trading also called yesterday for comments on whether the bid needed to be considered on competition grounds. A combination of the two brewers might be able to claim a 17 per cent share of the brewing market in the Central TV region.

Marston's new chief executive, Nick Letcher, argued that Wolverhampton & Dudley's bid price was too low. The Burton on Trent based brewer will return £101 million to shareholders — more than the £80 million it first aimed to achieve — through the securitisation of its tenanted pubs. — Jill Treanor

Underside

Dan Atkinson

FESTIVE cheer has come a little early for pensioners of the United Friendly insurance group. Year in, year out the company has lived up to its name and dispatched a Christmas hamper to its superannuated servants. Now United is part of the Refuge group, which was fated with a tough choice. Refuge pensioners have never received hampers, but all pensioners must be treated alike. So Refuge could either (a) extend the hamper to all pensioners or (b) rule that henceforth there would be no hampers for anybody. So, which was it to be? An (empty) hamper for the first to provide the correct answer.

ELSEWHERE among our great institutions, poor sap of the week has to be one WRP Dalton, not a pre-war cricketer nor minor prep-school master.

Over at Barclays, the UNIFI staff union was down at the House of Commons on Monday lobbying for the abolition of "pension claw-back", the process whereby state pension is docked off the occupational pension. How fortunate that the ranks of the bank's pensioners had just been swollen by three distinguished recruits.

MORE distinguished still is the annual hot-air festival (sorry, "world economic forum") in Switzerland at the end of January. Anyone who is anyone wings in to put the world to rights. Last year, our own Chancellor struck a blow for the non-

right (Lloyds application form please).

NOT that Midland is alone in making a public show of itself. Over at Barclays, the UNIFI staff union was down at the House of Commons on Monday lobbying for the abolition of "pension claw-back", the process whereby state pension is docked off the occupational pension. How fortunate that the ranks of the bank's pensioners had just been swollen by three distinguished recruits.

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VIP classes by giving Davos a wide berth. Sad to say the events of 1998 seem to have convinced Mr Brown that, however remote the chances of hearing anything worthwhile, he ought to make an appearance in 1999.



TILL on the international circuit, Tuesday saw Reinhard Schulze-Brands — single-currency highwig — address a euro-seminar organised by General Motors at Zaventem airport, Brussels. With the light, frothy humour for which Germans are renowned, he joked about the Queen's absence on the euro notes and berated the Brits for making a big deal about it. To tut-tutting in the hall, he "conceded" that Her Majesty may be allowed on the coins. After GM officials chided him, he disappeared pronto and sent an apologetic saying he never meant to diss the Queen.

OVER in Ireland, the Euro-awareness campaign moves into top gear as our nearest neighbour prepares to dive head

first into monetary union. Spotted in the Cork Examiner: "After Euro changeover all wallets must be manufactured to conform to standard Euro size: EU 5622/34A". On closer inspection, it proves merely to be a light-hearted tease issued by the Republic's EMU Business Awareness Campaign. We think.

To end where we began, with the loquacious Kule. Royal Mail has hired a psychologist to analyse the most appropriate corporate Christmas cards. The traditional Christmas scene is the "safe option", according to Professor Timothy Wheeler, while the humorous card tells customers the business is "friendly". For the truly adventurous there are charity cards which "often feature... religious scenes". Extraordinary.

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Football

Kidd warms to idea of Ewood Park

Ian Ross

BRIAN KIDD is expected to announce in the next 24 hours whether he wishes to accept the responsibility for preserving Blackburn Rovers' Premiership status.

Kidd is seriously considering leaving his post as assistant to Manchester United's manager Alex Ferguson to make the short journey to Ewood Park. Earlier this week the 49-year-old was officially named as Blackburn's first choice to succeed the dismissed Roy Hodgson, but his chance of assuming control at the Lancashire club appeared to have ended on Tuesday when United's refusal to grant him permission to open talks.

United's chief executive Martin Edwards was adamant that Kidd would see out his contract, but now seems to be preparing for a parting of the ways. "It is up to Brian now," he said. "There is a lot of thinking to be done on both sides. I have told Brian about Blackburn's approach and that we turned it down. That is all I can do. We will just have to see what happens next."

Negotiations between Edwards and Kidd will resume this afternoon after being put on hold because of United's involvement in last night's Worthington Cup quarter-final against Tottenham at White Hart Lane.

Although Kidd had a two-month spell of front-line management at Preston in 1986, he has spent a total of 18 years at United, the last seven of them working as Ferguson's right-hand man.

Predictably, Ferguson does not wish to see his manager's return to the club. "We do not want to lose him," the Old Trafford manager said. "He is very important to United and very important to me. We have an excellent staff and he is a key part of it."

Kidd would dearly like to

succeed Ferguson upon his retirement and is seriously considering Blackburn's offer in the belief that any experience of top-class management — even at a struggling club — would greatly improve his chances of taking control at Old Trafford.

Certainly Kidd would benefit financially if he succumbs to the overtures of Blackburn's wealthy benefactor Jack Walker. Kidd is believed to earn around £200,000 a year at United, a figure which could be comfortably trebled if he agreed to move. He was faced with an almost identical dilemma only six months ago when he was invited to take control at one of his former clubs, Everton, after the dismissal of Howard Kendall.

Although Kidd was tempted to move, he decided to remain with United after being offered improved terms. Everton's vice-chairman Bill Kenwright, meanwhile, yesterday said he could not rule out getting a big-business backer to support his efforts to buy out Peter Johnson. "I'm interested in securing Peter's shareholding. I've got a few thoughts, it doesn't have to be Evertonians. But there are a few people who I'll be turning to for help."

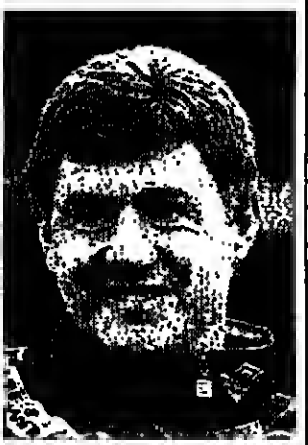
"I wouldn't like the thought of a big company, even a media group, coming in on my shoulder. But I wouldn't rule it out."

Kidd initially plans to hold discussions with his fellow board member Lord Grantchester, the grandson of the former owner Sir John Moores, and other members of the family.

"I'm pretty sure that I'm not this time, as long as people are in place with the money to back me. I have access to media groups and showbiz people," he added. "If it is there, I will get it. There are many Everton fans out there in the showbiz world."

Huddersfield's left-back Tony Cowan is ready to return following an 18-month spell on the sidelines with cruciate ligament damage. Bristol City have agreed a £225,000 fee with the Moldovan club FC Zimbru for 24-year-old defender Ion Testimianu, the national captain. Benny Lennartsson, the City coach, is also giving trials to the Hungarian internationals Janus Matyus, 23, and Vilmos Sebok, 25, available for a joint fee of £600,000.

Liverpool, already without the suspended Jamie Redknapp and the far-from-match-fit Jean-Michel Ferrer for Saturday's game at Spurs, are hoping that Karlheinz Riedle's ankle and Robbie Fowler's calf recover in time.



Kidd... 18 years at United

First Division

QPR 1 Ipswich Town 1

Holland strikes to save Ipswich

Jon Brodwin

MATT HOLLAND equaliser cross one minute into injury-time earned Ipswich a point last night at Loftus Road to deny Rangers the lion's share of the spoils and which would have capped a momentous week for the Super Hoops.

Rangers must have feared the worst after learning that Gerry Francis had been named Manager of the Month for November. Such awards are generally to winning managers who vote of confidence are to job security.

Francis had little to worry about on that front. Since his return in place of Ray Harford, QPR have climbed off the bottom of the table, scoring more goals in the past five weeks than in the previous three months under Harford. Francis does, though, have greater incentive than most managers to achieve success. He owns one million shares in Loftus Road plc and plans to considerably increase that investment. "I've been involved in this club in one way or another for 17 years," he said. "And it is in my heart."

QPR found openings hard to come by, which was no surprise. Ipswich arrived with the country's meanest defence and when Kevin Gallen's cross picked out Mike

Shearon his glancing header was too weak to trouble Richard Wright.

But Wright saved the best until last, indicating why he was called into the last England squad by tipping over Paul Murray's powerful shot after a neat Shearon pass.

The flow of chances continued immediately after the break. Mark Venus sent a long-range shot narrowly wide of Miklosko's left-hand post from outside the box before QPR took a 57th minute lead.

Shearon's pass put Gallen beyond the Ipswich defence and he beat Wright at his near post with a low shot.

Miklosko produced a wonderful save to deny Matthew Holland an equaliser 10 minutes later, keeping out a header which looked beyond his reach.

QPR (2-0-0), Miklosko, Madzo, Morrow, Reedy, Heinola, Murray, Langley (South), Barachogh, Galen, Shearon (Bristol, 60).

Ipswich (2-0-2), Wright, Thane, Mowbray (Kennedy, 65), Venus, Oyar, Tanner (Rodgers, 60), Holland, Peto, Clapham, Johnson, Brownell.

Referee: G. Ginn (Scarlett).

Juventus confounded at the last

A LAST-minute goal from Ayaas Stait gave Galatasaray a 1-1 draw with Juventus in their politically fraught Champions League game in Turkey last night.

The late equaliser severely dented the Italians' hopes of qualifying for the

quarter-finals after Nicola Amoroso had scored after 78 minutes. Juventus must now beat Rosenborg in Turin next Wednesday and hope Galatasaray lose at Athletic Bilbao.

Foreign, page 7



Running battle... Damien Duff of Blackburn is challenged by Leicester's Matt Elliott during the quarter-final at Filbert Street

Worthington Cup quarter-final: Leicester City 1 Blackburn Rovers 0

Lennon's head keeps Leicester on target

Trevor Haylett

THE new Blackburn manager, whoever it turns out to be, would have been proud of his team last night but it was Leicester, resilient to the last, who got through to the semi-final of a competition they won two years ago.

A lapse in defence let Rovers down after they had the better of the tie for an hour and in which they came closest to scoring. Nobody in a side galvanised by

the caretaker-manager Tony Parkes was on hand to prevent Neil Lennon coming out with a free header for a Robbie Savage cross.

Blackburn named a mid-field foursome seriously light in terms of Premiership experience, but this was not another case of giving the reserves their heads. There was really no alternative for Parkes, who amid all his other problems is grappling with a debilitating list of absences.

Apart from that quartet he was also without Chris Sutton, even though he has

completed a four-match suspension, and Parkes paired Kevin Davies and Kevin Gallacher in attack for the first time.

They saw considerably more of the ball than the Leicester striking pair early on while the men directly behind them, for all their lack of big-match know-how, showed the spirit and combative qualities to take control.

Kasey Keller was involved as early as the second minute when Gallacher swung a free-kick towards the top corner.

Suitably encouraged, Rovers kept up a steady momentum and with Dario Marcolin quick to spot a team-mate in space, Leicester were forced to do a lot of chasing.

Damien Johnson soon produced a strong run after pinching the ball from Rob Ullathorne, but Damien Duff wasted the opportunity. Leicester were no where near as fit and too often their passing was vague, though danger always lurked when they could spread the play wide and invite Steve Guppy to

deliver one of his killing left-wing centres.

Emile Heskey, forced to survive on scraps, had a shot from a long way out when Christian Dailly conceded possession. But there were better alternatives for the powerful young striker and it rather summed up the home team's lack of conviction and thought.

Davies, looking increasingly like a player regaining his form, had two chances as the first half ended. He should certainly have done better with the first, as Leicester paid more

attention to the linesman's flag than the referee's decision to play on and allowed Gallacher to slip him in.

He could only hit his shot straight at the goalkeeper, but he came closer in the 61st minute, when another piece of improvisation sent the ball crashing against the angle of post and bar from an area of little promise well outside the penalty box.

Leicester City (5-3-3): Keller, Savage, Sinclair, Elliott, Walsh, Guppy, Parker, Ullathorne, Lennon, Heskey, Fenton, Blackburn (4-4-3): Folan, Konns, Heskey, Dailly, Davidson, Johnson, Duff, Marcolin, Duff, Davies, Gallacher, Matthews A. White (Chapman-In-Sport).

Results

Football

WORTHINGTON CUP

Quarter-finals

Leicester City 1 Blackburn Rovers 0

Tottenham 1 Ipswich Town 1

Sheff Wed 0-1 Sheff Utd

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Arsenal's problems mount as Uefa bans Dixon and Parlour

Martin Thorpe

ARSENAL's poor disciplinary record was pushed back into the spotlight yesterday when Uefa banned the full-backs Lee Dixon and Tony Parlour for at least one game following an elbowing incident which the referee originally missed.

Dixon's team-mate Ray Parlour has also been suspended for at least one match after being sent off in the same Champions League tie against Lens for kicking out at the French midfielder Cyril Rool.

The episodes took place near the end of last Wednesday's game in which Arsenal lost to Lens and as a result failed to reach the quarter-finals of the competition.

Both players will be banned for Arsenal's final Group E game at Panathinaikos next Wednesday but they could have their suspensions extended when Uefa's disciplinary committee meets again next month. Any further ban



Dixon... elbow offence



Parlour... facing ban

Cuba to play in German League

BONNER, a German Fourth Division club, have come up with an audacious plan to improve their promotion chances: signing up the entire Cuban team.

They hope to secure the deal with the Cuban federation next week.

The idea is that the Cubans would come to Bonn to benefit from German facilities and coaching, and Bonner, in return, could field any of the Cubans.

It arose after Bonner officials watched a video of Cuba playing Brazil earlier this year. "We thought maybe we could bring one or two Cuban players to Germany," said Rainer Thomas, the club coach.

"Things developed to the extent that the Cubans said an entire team would train here and play international games against other smaller nations."

Thomas and his chairman Hans Vio are due to fly out to Cuba on Sunday to sign the "cooperation agreement". "The Cubans want their team in Europe to learn tactics," Vio said.

Scotland's players' union decides bigger is beautiful

THE Scottish Professional Footballers' Association will ask for the Premier League to be extended to 16 teams to prevent leading players from suffering burn-out and smaller clubs from having to go part-time.

The SPFA will make the request after a survey of their members yesterday revealed widespread dissatisfaction with the new Premier League set-up, which is in its first season.

Many top players complained of playing too many matches while First Division players expressed anxiety about their jobs, with many smaller full-time clubs considering a part-time future.

The SPFA believes increasing the Premier League from 10 to 16 teams will provide a solution for both problems.

A 16-team league would mean each club playing 30 games, six fewer than this season, when teams face each other four times.

The proposal would also give six clubs currently outside the top flight the financially attractive prospect of games against Celtic and Rangers. The Scottish Premier

FA warning for Millwall

MILLWALL were yesterday found guilty of failing to control their spectators following pitch invasions during the match against Manchester City earlier this season.

But the Second Division club have escaped punishment after the incidents during the league game at the New Den on September 23.

Millwall have been warned about their future conduct and the FA will continue to monitor the situation closely with the club.

After a hearing lasting more than six hours, an FA crowd control commission said it was impressed by the south London club's determination to prevent any further problems.

The match referee Matt Messias gave evidence to the commission about the pitch invasions and incidents of coin throwing during the second half of the 1-1 draw.

Police Superintendent Trevor Brydges said there had been four invasions during the game and police had to stop fans reaching players and officials after Manchester City scored a late equaliser.

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Sports **Guardian**

Worthington Cup quarter-final

Tottenham 3 Manchester United 1

Armstrong heads United off at the pass

David Lacey

TWO headers from Chris Armstrong in the space of six minutes early in the second half took Tottenham Hotspur towards the last four at White Hart Lane last night despite a spirited performance by an odd Manchester United mix of regulars and occasional.

Ever then Teddy Sheringham's header, from Phil Neville's cross, offered United a glimmer of hope, whereupon David Ginola's fierce long-range drive five minutes from time restored the margin.

Tottenham and United looked at this tie from contrasting perspectives. For Spurs it was an opportunity to take a significant step towards European football next season and continue their rehabilitation under George Graham, for United a further chance to give young players experience.

In fact, Alex Ferguson was also keen to give experienced players a leg-stretcher after injuries, hence the presence of Sheringham, Ryan Giggs and Ronny Johnsen. And with David Beckham and Jesper Blomqvist on the bench it was clear Saturday's game at Villa Park and this Champions League encounter with Bayern Munich in a week's time had not completely blinded United to the worth of the Worthington Cup.

Not that Tottenham were facing the real United, not with Neville partnering Nicky Butt in central midfield while tyros like Michael Clegg and John Curtis guarded the flanks. Ginola was quick to remind Clegg of what he was up against as Tottenham swept forward on a broad, brisk front although the first clear opening was United's creation.

In the fourth minute Sheringham sent in Ole Solskjaer on the left and the Norwegian's low centre reached Butt, whose low shot was saved by Ian Walker, making only his third appearance of the season. For a while thereafter United spent more time containing than attacking.

Nevertheless they might have taken the lead midway through the half as Giggs began to get into his old stride, Clegg found him on the left and Giggs's through ball was perfectly timed to coincide with Neville's run past a square defence, but Neville's narrow-angled shot was high and wide.

By now Spurs had lost some of their earlier momentum. They were winning the odd corner and firing in the occasional long shot but their football looked disjointed. And when Allan Nielsen did win possession near the edge of the United penalty area, courtesy of Johnsen's slip, he was quickly tackled by Curtis before he could shoot. Colin Calderwood then sliced the loose



Root room... Teddy Sheringham, who later scored for Manchester United, finds space for a shot

RUSSELL BOYCE

ball into the crowd. Solskjaer went much closer at the other end just past the half-hour.

Stephen Carr went to close him down but Solskjaer still managed to drive in a low

shot which beat Walker before narrowly missing the far post.

Twice towards the end of the first half Nielsen's touch let him down. A backheel from Armstrong found Anderson in space and his pass sent the Dane through, but the chance was lost. Then Nielsen exploited an error by the promising Jonathan Greening only to lose control again.

The game badly needed a goal to give it a plot, and one duly arrived three minutes into the second half as Spurs exposed United's defence in the air. Nielsen gathered a pass from Ginola and centred, Ruel Fox, who had replaced Calderwood, nodded the ball on and Armstrong's header beat Raymond Van Der Gouw in a high arc.

Solskjaer immediately responded with a well-struck 20-

yard shot — just to remind White Hart Lane that United really cared — but their cause looked forlorn when Armstrong darted to the near post to glance in Ginola's cross.

With Anderson, operating in midfield now that Fox was on the right, there was a better balance to Tottenham's game.

Further United misses — Solskjaer with a header, Butt with a volley — warned Spurs against complacency. They still had some defending to do. But as United strained to get back into the contest so they risked exposure to Tottenham counter-attacks.

Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Carr, Young, Campbell, Sinton; Nielsen, Anderson, Calderwood (Fox, 44), Ginola, Armstrong, Iversen.

Manchester United (4-4-2): Van Der Gouw; Clegg, Berg, Johnsen, Curtis (Blomqvist, 80); Greening (Beckham, 87min), P. Neville, East (Nolan, 71), Slogar, Sheringham, Solskjaer.

Referee: P. Jones (Loughborough).

Distaff side draw level in people's game



Laura Thompson

ALITTLE while ago, I wrote a magazine article about David Beckham in which I described, with what seemed appropriate lyricism, the elegance of his play. In response to these stylistic curlicues, I received a letter from a female football "fan" saying something to the effect that I should get back to Harvey Nichols and leave the game to those plain speakers who really knew about it. Quite flattering, really.

Ridiculous though this letter was, it said something about the current relationship between football and the sexes. What struck me most of all was that men would not have dared to write in this way. Over the past few years, the poor things have learned that they must smile nobly as women talk about the game, deferring to all querulous assertions that David James is the best goalkeeper in England.

Also striking was the fact that a woman could now see herself as the guardian of football's soul, defending it against the evil forces of emasculation.

Indeed, it could almost be said that my letter-writer was speaking for all the guys, saying, in some of them would undoubtedly like to, that football is not for people who think that an early bath is what you have before a 7pm reservation at The Ivy, or muse that the character of Tony Adams could have been created by Eugene O'Neill. It is for people who appreciate Colin Hendry and know that English was once the official language at Stamford Bridge.

Whether these people are men or women is no longer the point. Over the past decade, women have become so assimilated into football fandom that it is meaningless to talk about them *en masse*. When members of the crowd are stopped before a game to deliver an opinion to the television cameras, the fact of them being male or female is now completely irrelevant. No one takes any notice. What matters is whether or not they are *true fans*.

Of course, what we might call the Harvey Nichols tendency were never going to be-

come lovers of the game, however beautiful it might be sometimes. Indeed, now that I am one of them, they seem to have pretty much evaporated. The novelty of wearing hipsters labelled Gucci with a shirt labelled Diesel has presumably worn off. "The material these shirts are made in... my dear!"

It was always easy to despise these daff girls, just as it was fun to mock the Geese Agonistes School of Writing and that creature of urban myth, the dinner-party football expert. All of this excitable ephemera had been brought into life by fashion and was destined, therefore, to die by it.

But it had, of course, its lasting effects. These are not just that Winnie Jones has become a national icon, or that George Graham's favourite player is now a skilful dreamboat for single Dads on the *Real Men* list. It is that the money spun by peripheral activity has fed the game and changed it forever.

As a matter of honour, the true fans affect to loathe this, to yearn for the days when David Beckham went home from matches on the bus. The true fan is a hater of stock markets and chairman — especially those such as the former Everton incumbent Peter Johnson who are not loyal to one club — of Rupert Murdoch and the sums charged for tickets and replica kits.

All of which is perfectly understandable: capitalism and sport are very uneasy bedfellows.

BUT how can you square this puritanical contempt with the joy that the true fan evinces when, for example, an Alan Shearer "comes home" to Newcastle for £15 million? Where exactly, is that kind of money meant to come from, if not, directly and indirectly, from the forays that football has so triumphantly made into the despicable world beyond?

Other sports would kill to be able to do this. Indeed, you hear from them a good deal of football-influenced talk, about marketing and broadening of appeal, but it won't work — at least, not to anything like the same indestructible degree. How can it, when no other sport has anything like that vast army of true fans, exploited and demanding in equal parts, whose appetite for football seems to grow by what it feeds on? Perhaps other sports should simply follow the resigned example of horse racing. In an attempt to broaden its own appeal, it now puts televised football in the grandstand bars.

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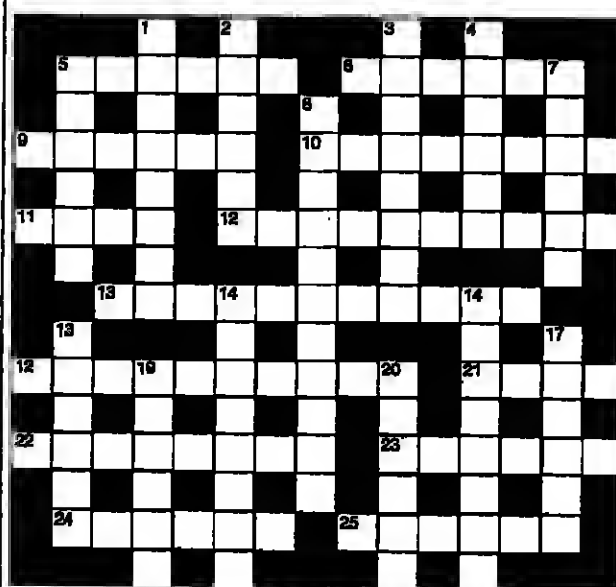
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"I'm saving taxpayers millions of dollars by stopping some of these babies from being born. I'm making a difference. Too many people have kids who have no business having them." The woman paying drug addicts to be sterilised

G2 p8

Guardian Crossword No 21,448

Set by Shed

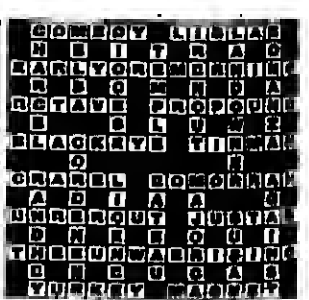


Across

- 5 One-dimensional Shakespearean kept in (6)
- 6 They might give a lot to be born indoors (6)
- 9 Uncovers a revolutionary (inactive) (6)
- 10 How to get out of starting package holiday in Cornish town (6)
- 11 Infant to take care of (4)
- 12 Cheated in race, taking cash sweetener (10)
- 13 Likely prospect for smuggler on border (5,6)
- 16 Trojan heroine or Roman died horribly hurt (10)
- 21 Withdraw or draw back, carrying the Cross (4)
- 22 Little Hitler backing the transport I catch (8)
- 23 Dry fruit in the academician's home (6)

Down

- 1 Give rise to information in 'Terminator' (8)
- 2 He wrote about Portugal, the setting for many a novel (8)
- 3 Work hard to penetrate punctuation on the last page (8)
- 4 Burrower in wood (6)
- 5 Dog Star? (6)
- 7 It helps to heal wounded heart in divorce (8)
- 8 Voter with tangled feet gets sharp shock (11)
- 14 Propose to the bird in 'Fame' (8)
- 15 Faculty crew receiving the go-ahead (8)
- 16 Establish interim settlement



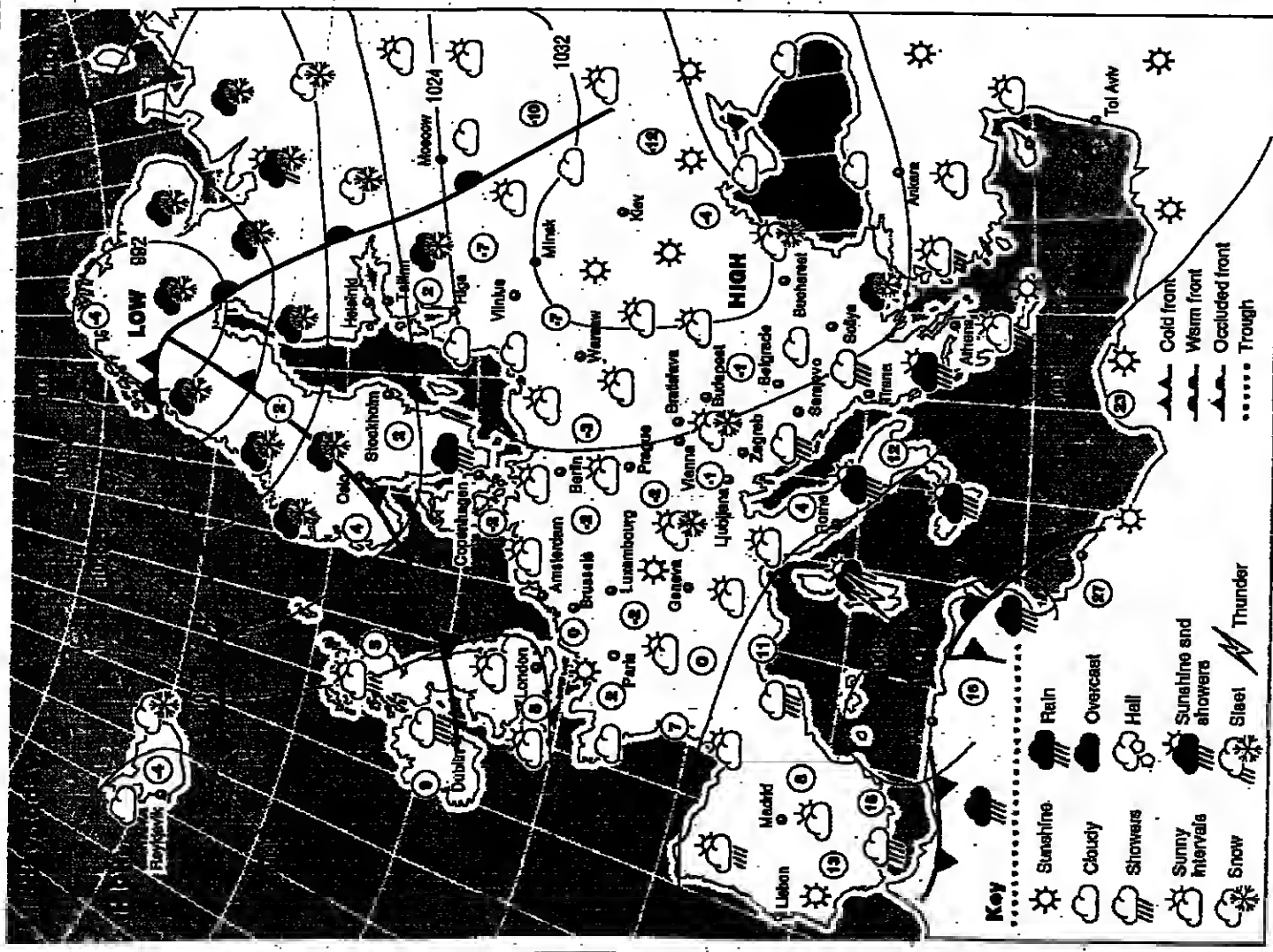
CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,447

when Government leader spots uprising (6)
17 One giving orders to wit? That's right (6)
18 Somewhat sooner (8)
20 Unoriginally maudlin tongue-lashing (8)

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The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

| European weather outlook

Switzerland	Davos, south-east Norway and northern Sweden will stay dry, but cold with overcast frost and freezing fog down to cloud. The rest of Switzerland and Norway will be much more unsettled with snow showers and much lower temperatures than elsewhere between -2 and -8°C, but lower in the far north.	Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland	Another cold but mostly dry, settled day will follow. Freezing fog slowly lifting to leave a clear, bright day by midday. A few light frosts. However, parts of Austria may see the end of snow flurry. Max temp 0 to -3°C.	France	High pressure will keep much of the country clear and bright, but it will also be very windy with some night-time rain or drizzle from the east. Windy and stormy weather will sweep across the eastern and northern ends of France. The morning weather will be along the Mediterranean coast and in the Bordeaux areas with lights between Spain and Portugal.	Ireland, Portugal	Mediterranean regions will be unsettled today with a good deal of showers. Some of the showers may manage to give some larger spots of rain and occasional snow. However, all of western and northern Ireland will offer the clearance of any early local fog clearing away by midday.	Italy	Mostly 6-10°C inland. In the capital area and the north-western part of Italy, there will be strong winds.	Norway	Bright and cold in the far north but showers and rain in the south.	Sweden	Clearing in the north to 4°C in the south.	Greece	Mild but mixed with sunny spells and scattered showers. Max temp 17-20°C.
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Television and radio

[illegible]

The Guardian Thursday December 3 1998 Charlotte Payne 83 Christmas 10-11 • Quick Crossword 15 • Radio and Television 18

Inside Story | Art

Holiday in hell -
how I was held
prisoner by the
Korean army

Women

Why let a pregnancy ruin your drug habit?

Spina

online
Yorkshire: home
of star wars
12

Just how well do you know Europe?
Turn to our special quiz and find out



PHOTOGRAPH BY HERMAN J. KNEPPERTZ

adorn3 noqe

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So you think you know

... but do you know how straight a Eurobarometer should be? Can you tell your harmonisation from your subsidiarity? Test your knowledge with our bumper European Quiz

Language

1. 'Pangloss' is:
a) A popular, British-made security powder, which will be banned if the EU introduces new legislation restricting household aluminium emissions.
b) Voltaire's favourite optimist. In Candide, he believes that 'all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds.'
c) Pirelli's Architecture for Networking Gateway Linking Open Systems Interconnections, an EU information technology project.
d) Short-hand for the 2,000 page Glossary issued to EU workers, at a cost of £76 per capita.

History

1. The forerunner to the European Union, founded by three countries in 1948, was known as:
a) Asterix
b) Moultrie
c) Benelux
d) Magdouches
2. What was the Treaty of Rome?
a) The founding treaty of the EU.
b) The agreement to ban British beef.
c) An attempt to limit media magazine circulation within the EU.
d) Silvio Berlusconi's power.
3. In 1991 and 1997 the French vetoed which country's application to join the EU?
a) Turkey
b) Britain
c) Germany
d) The flag
4. In 1998 the EC adopted which common emblem?
a) The flag
b) The Euro
c) The Ecu
d) The capricious
5. Which island voted massively against membership in 1972, joined in 1973, voted narrowly against it again in 1982 and finally left in 1987?
a) Malta
b) Greenland
c) Vienna
d) Wilpore

Food

1. Which of the following is not a type of coffee but a Portuguese beef brand?
a) Curry
b) Oat
c) Espresso
d) Biscotto
2. Which of the following haven't fallen foul of EU regulation?
a) The Italian foreign minister with responsibility for Europe.
b) The commissioner for budget, personnel and administration, translation and in-house computer services.
c) Europe's first female commissioner.
d) Who was physically removed from the European Parliament for shouting abuse at the Pope?
3. Who conceived of the Schuman Plan?
a) Jean Monnet
b) Robert Schuman
c) Herbert Plan
d) Jacques Delors
4. To what regime did the 1880 outline of the Eurovision song contest?

People

1. Jean Monnet was:
a) The prime valency of a united Europe and the first president of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community.
b) A French impressionist who inspired the design for the Euro, the architect of the continent-etched building that houses the European commission.
2. Who was physically removed from the European Parliament for shouting abuse at the Pope?
a) Peter Tatchell
b) Ian Paisley
c) Herbert Plan
d) Liam Gallagher
3. Who conceived of the Schuman Plan?
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b) Robert Schuman
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d) Jacques Delors
4. To what regime did the 1880 outline of the Eurovision song contest?

Culture

1. Which of the following recently published novels won last year's Man Booker Prize?
a) The English Boy
b) The English Girl
c) The English Boy
d) The English Girl



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The University of Nottingham

School of Psychology

Systems Administrator

The academic related post is to maintain, develop and extend the School's computing environment. Working with the Computer Manager and other members of the IT support team, the person appointed will operate on the network, manage the PC, UNIX and Windows systems. The role includes hardware and software selection and installation, problem resolution and the provision of user support and training for staff and students. A number of important information services are run on UNIX, hosts and there are around 140 workstations for academics, researchers, support staff and students. Candidates should possess a degree in an appropriate subject. Familiarity with the installation and management of Windows NT servers and Windows NT clients would be particularly welcome. The post will also involve the provision of user support and training for staff and students. Salary will be within the range £25,735 - £29,655, pa, depending on qualifications and experience. Informal enquiries may be addressed to Professor N. Sharrock, tel: 0115 951 5307. Further details and application forms are available from the Personnel Office, Highfield Road, Nottingham NG7 2RD. Tel: 0115 951 5307; Fax: 0115 951 5205. Email: John.Dunham@nottingham.ac.uk. Please quote ref. LEB/438. Closing date: 28 December 1998.

Quiz answers

Language
1. c) Curry
2. b) Oat
3. a) Espresso
4. d) Biscotto

History
1. c) Benelux
2. a) The flag
3. b) The Euro
4. c) The Ecu
5. b) The capricious

Food
1. a) Curry
2. b) Oat
3. a) Espresso
4. d) Biscotto

People
1. a) Jean Monnet
2. b) Robert Schuman
3. c) Herbert Plan
4. d) Jacques Delors

Culture
1. a) The English Boy
2. b) The English Girl
3. c) The English Boy
4. d) The English Girl

Quick Crossword No. 8921

Across

1. Palace - honour
2. Mark showing modesty
3. Experiences (4)
4. Suffering as an expression of penitence (7)
5. Goes ahead (5,3)
6. River in Vienna (9)
7. Enthusiasm (9)
8. Cart taking horse-riders on short trips (6,7)
9. Aired display (7)
10. Change (5)
11. Cried out (4)
12. Trench of beef (9)

Down

1. Host - lighting people (6)
2. Corniced - some (7)
3. Respected for nobility (8)
4. Second-hand command (6)
5. Horseman's spear (9)
6. Wicked - very difficult (6)
7. Spines (12)
8. Telling on (9)
9. Strachy (7)
10. Gao (8)
11. Throw out (9)
12. Courage (4)

Steve Ball

I WANT A BANGUP TICKET AND A FAIR OF GREEN WELLSINGTONS!

WHAT SIZE WOULD THAT BE SIR?

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO, SIR.

OH! I CAN'T FIND THE TICKETS, BUT I'VE FOUND THE ALIANCE HERE! FOR A BANGUP!

BY GARRY TRUDEAL

Doonesbury

IT'S THE LAST DAY OF THE DOONESBURY STRIP. CHUCK AND BOB ARE SAYING GOODBYE TO EACH OTHER. BOB IS SAYING "I'LL BE BACK TO MATHUR!"

134 REPRODUCTION RIGHTS FROM THE DOONESBURY STRIP. BOB IS SAYING "I'LL BE BACK TO MATHUR!"

134 REPRODUCTION RIGHTS FROM THE DOONESBURY STRIP. BOB IS SAYING "I'LL BE BACK TO MATHUR!"



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SAS is a dynamic, global IT consultancy, widely recognised for SAS solutions that shape the competitive edge of organisations around the world. One of the first approved Quality Partners of SAS Institute, demand for our services is now unprecedented creating opportunities for SAS professionals at every level to become consultants.

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Kramer Westfield
SEARCH AND SELECTION

WEB DEVELOPER (System Administration)
1 year contract
The Guardian
The Observer

Internet Production Person
Manchester Online
In the gateway web site for Manchester, produced by MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS and CITY LIFE MAGAZINE
le this you...?

TECHNICAL SPECIALIST
Microsoft Projects
Websters Multimedia
Microsoft Projects
Websters Multimedia
Technical Specialist
Websters Multimedia

How do you rate?
0-5 Eurotrash
Where have you been for the last two decades? Not in Europe, that's for sure. You clearly think Emu is something to do with Rod Hull. Book a weekend trip to Brussels immediately!

Geography
1. Stone is a dish colour of its buildings and its

Money
1. How much is one euro worth?
a) 10 pence
b) 100 pence
c) 1000 pence
d) None of the above

TECHNICAL CHALLENGE
£20,000-£30,000
ECM's clients - the high-tech Supermarket are the UK's most successful high-tech companies, leading-edge manufacturers and forward R & D Centres. We offer you immediate access to the UK's most technically challenging and financially rewarding career development opportunities.

How do you rate?
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NI
Ages Mostly between 100 and 200 years, though it has only taken its singular place in metropolitan geography since 1951. A long-time resident, became Labour leader.

2. Who actually uses the Eurostar service to Brussels?
a) No one
b) Millions of tourists
c) A Spanish economist who dumped his idea that all Europeans should be required to take a two hour train ride to Brussels
d) A delusion of European Community trade officials

3. The court of auditors recently found that the sum of money lost by the EU's financial management...
a) Approximately £25,000. They concluded that the EU financial department was a "brilliantly efficient machine".
b) £3 billion. Five per cent of the EU's budget.
c) £20 billion. Half the EU budget and enough to supply every household in Europe with a heated swimming pool.
d) £40 million. A negligible amount compared with the extravagance of NATO and the UN.

4. The EU recently allocated £800 billion to...
a) Reducing European fishing fleets by 99 per cent.
b) Persuading Italian farmers to produce beetroot instead of durum wheat.
c) Replacing Soviet nuclear power plants.
d) Draining the wine lake.

5. What do the stars on the European Union flag signify?
a) The number of times Oscar LaFontaine has been married.
b) The number of countries in the EU between 1985 and 1994.
c) The number of times Britain will refuse to join the Euro before joining it.
d) The number of cities in which the European parliament sits.

6. The EU would like to tax:
a) Babies
b) Windows
c) Cats
d) None of the above

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4 • Thursday December 3 1998 The Guardian

The guide books led teenage backpacker Joel Emond to China's spectacular Lake Chon — and straight to a month-long ordeal in a North Korean detention centre.
Emma Brockes reports

Treks of his tears

When 19-year-old Joel Emond stumbled across a group of green-clad men and women in a lake-side in China, he thought they were soldiers enjoying a day out. When they failed to respond to his Chinese greeting, he thought they were Korean tourists.

It wasn't until he was staring down the barrel of an AK47 that Emond realised they were not tourists and he was in big trouble. The teenage backpacker had wandered over to a North Korean detention centre. That was on September 26, five days ago Emond finally arrived back in Britain, exhausted, but so unfazed by the month-long ordeal that he had extended his visa to do more travelling.

"I started to get suspicious that day when I noticed that the soldiers' uniforms were a dull, green cotton, unlike the Chinese ones. Then I saw that the little badges they were wearing had a face on them that wasn't Chairman Mao's. I recognised it as that of the Korean leader, Kim Il Sung, and began to wonder if I was actually still in China."

In fact Emond, on a three-month trek after taking A-levels at his school in Bristol, had crossed the border several kilometres back while enjoying a walk around Lake Chon, about 1,000km from Lake Chon. lake (its name means 'Heavenly pool') is recommended by guide books for the volcanic scenery. It affords of the Changbai Shan mountains. What they fail to mention is the fact that it lies on the Chinese/North Korean border. "It's a pretty big mistake to make," grins Emond.

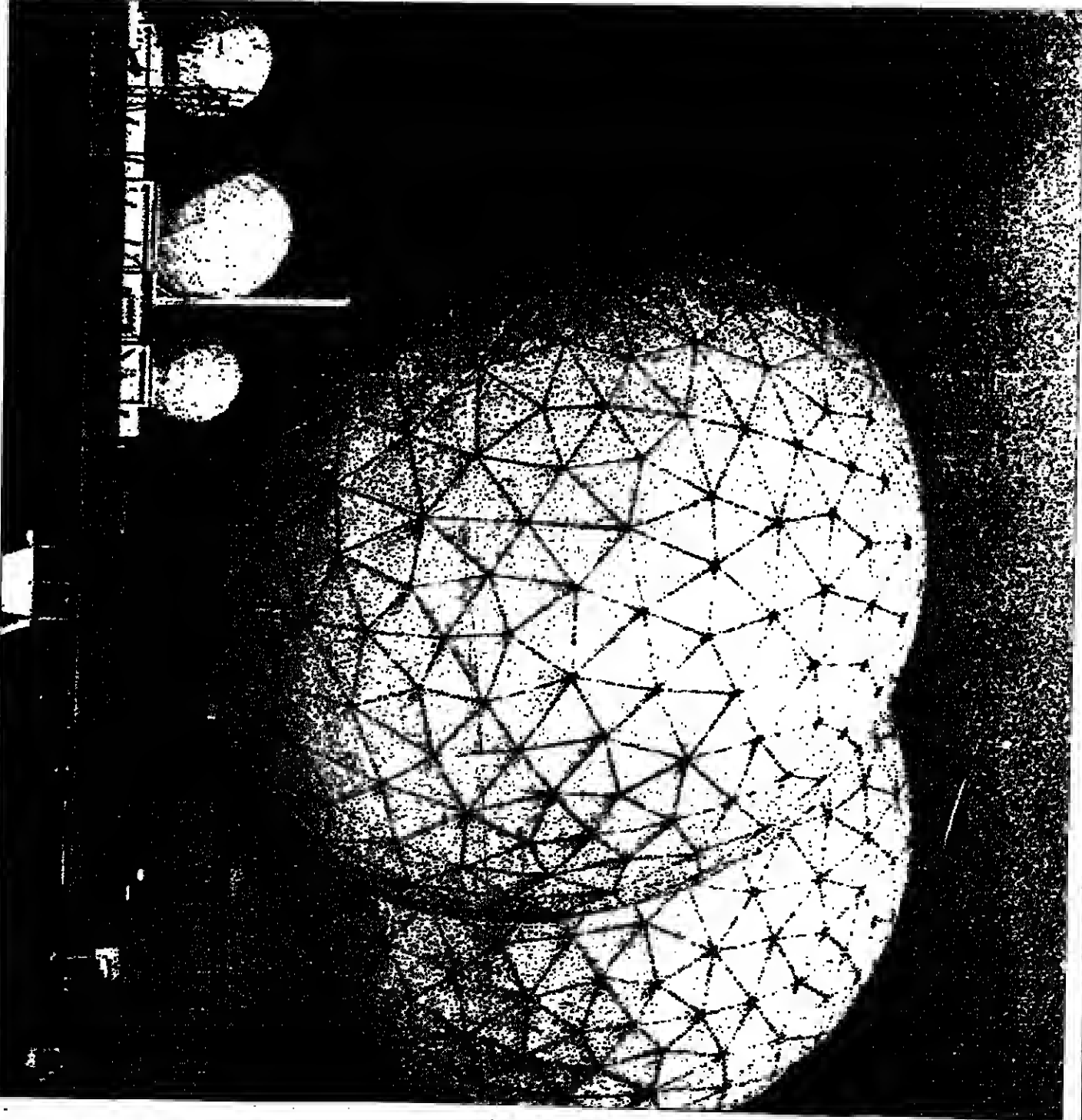
He was last foraging three weeks ago when, realising the guide books were wrong, he tried to retreat. "I started walking slowly back, with increasing speed, but it was too late. A couple of North Koreans placed a hand on my shoulder and forced me back." He was marched up a hill to a wooden



Joel Emond spent a month in a North Korean detention centre.

'I started walking slowly back, with increasing speed, but it was too late'

online



gather full positional information to any target.

The ability to track satellites to their mid-course phase is critical to intercepting and destroying them, both in regional wars or if regional powers such as Korea, India, or Pakistan continue to develop long-range weapons. At first, this interception will be done by missiles, such as the Patriot system, put on alert in Kuwait a month ago. But there is enormous domestic pressure in the US to take the next step, and use information from the new satellites to intercept missiles long before they are in range of their targets. The ultimate goal is a Ballistic Missile Defence System to protect the US, the defence that Reagan promised US citizens in 1983 to render Soviet missiles "impotent and obsolete".

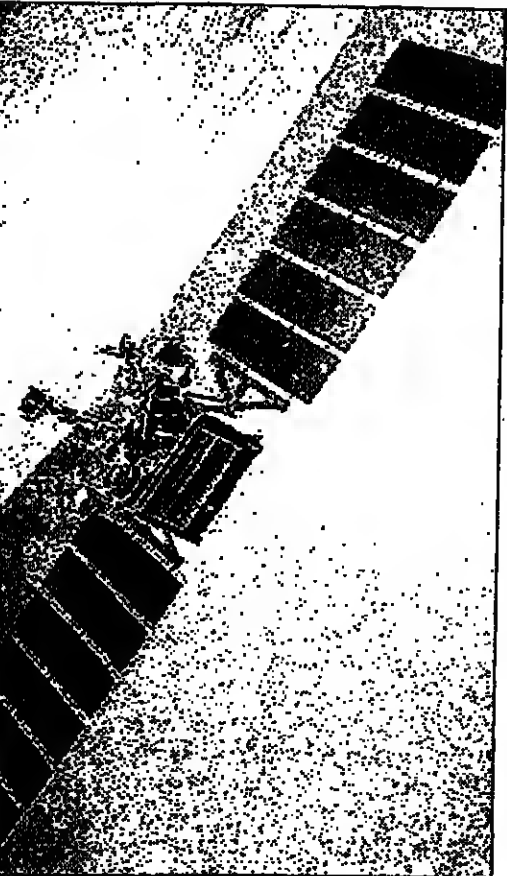
According to Horner, "should we decide to make the policy decision to have space-based weapons, because SBIRS gives you the capability of not only seeing the hot missile weapons coming off the launch pad but also to track them, after the rocket extinguishes and it's a cold body in space".

US plans for space-based laser weapon systems have been quietly

making progress throughout the 1990s, without significant controversy or comment. Earlier this year, the US tested a complete strike and firing system for a space-based laser, claiming afterwards that the technology for striking the laser accurately had now been fully proved. If such weapons are ever deployed, they will depend primarily on information from the SBIRS to find and destroy their targets.

Critics question the legality of putting weapons of destructive capabilities [in space] is very threatening and certainly should be the subject of an international movement to ban weapons from space," says Rear Admiral Eugene Carroll of the Washington-based Center for Defense Information, a former US director of US Naval operations in Europe. He contends that SBIRS breaches the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which forbids the superpowers from launching any component of an ABM system into space. "It seems to me self-evident that the plan to put SBIRS up there is a pure violation," he contends.

Horner disagrees. "If we put a space-based laser or space-based system that can fire projectiles on to incoming ballistic missiles, we have not put a weapon in space," he claims. "We've put an anti-weapon in space. It's a neutraliser of weapons."



Son of Star
Went: Tests on space-based laser weapons (above left), which will rely on the system being deployed at Menwith (below), are now said to show that the technology is fully proven. The new satellites will enable missiles to be intercepted long before they strike

will be further fuelled when a former US intelligence officer testifies for the first time that Menwith Hill intercepts commercial information. Over the past year, there has been concern in Europe about Menwith Hill's role in Britain, a global computer network for processing and disseminating intercepted communications. Britain, originally known as Project P416, is not by the NSA in conjunction with agencies in Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. A debate on Menwith Hill was held in the European Parliament in September.

Colonel Dan Smith, former military intelligence attaché at the US Embassy in London until 1993 regularly visited Menwith Hill and worked with the information it intercepted. "In terms of intercepting up communications, intercepting since their role is broadened, there will be conversations or communications which are intercepted which have nothing to do with the military and probably within those there will be some information about commercial dealings," he says.

In 1993, he recalls, there was "a serious discussion of whether or not the US government — either the [military] service or the National Security Agency — should be employed to collect commercial intelligence." He believes that the decision was then made not to spy for US companies. "In terms of specifically targeting the information of a commercial nature, that is not part of the policy of the government as I understand it," he says.

However, Smith's belief that the NSA did not then go ahead and make use of commercial intelligence is contradicted by accounts from other US sources. In 1993, former National Security Council official Howard Teicher described how the Panavia aerospace company Panavia was specifically targeted over sales to the Middle East. "I recall that the words 'Tornado' or 'Panavia' — information related to the specific aircraft — would have been priority targets that we would have wanted information about," he said.

In 1995, the Baltimore Sun reported that the NSA had tapped into a commercial communications satellite and "tapped all the fax and phone calls between the European consortium Airbus, the Saudi national airline and the Saudi government." The \$6 billion contract subsequently went to the US companies, Boeing and McDonnell Douglas. Menwith Hill is the main — and perhaps the only — intelligence station covering Saudi Arabia.

Asked on tonight's BBC programme if official policy not to pass on commercial data meant that such activities did not happen to information intercepted at Menwith Hill, Smith concedes: "Anything would be possible technically. Technically they can scoop all the information up, sort through it and find out what it is that might be asked for. ... But there is not policy to do this specifically to respond to a particular company's interest."

Track Star's Edward Toppa, a film for BBC North's Close Up North, is due to be broadcast at 7.30pm on BBC2

6 Appointments

Project Scheduler

Reporting to: Development Director

Key objective: To draw up and manage the project schedules for the development of the company's two football titles.

Salary: 20-30K

Principal duties:

- To work as part of the development team
- To generate, monitor and update project plans to include risk assessment and possible contingencies.
- Keep project momentum moving by reviewing and updating schedules on a weekly basis.
- Regular visits to external developer and liaison with the technical director and producers on project progress.
- Reduce scheduling slippage by concentrating on risk analysis and recovery plans and resource effectively.
- Provide input to the PSM on project dates.
- To help manage the project team through the extending of meetings, assigning actions and monitoring these actions.
- To maintain project documentation accurately throughout a project.

Experience:

- Real world experience of complex projects, preferably in a computing environment.
- Experience of Microsoft Project.
- Good spreadsheet and Windows knowledge a necessity.

Skills:

- Good team management skills.
- Ability to communicate at all levels within the organisation.
- Ability to work efficiently and effectively under pressure and on own initiative.
- Strong team player.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work in an informal environment.
- Both verbal and written communication are essential as the ability to provide work, to tight deadlines with little supervision.
- Ability to work in a flexible manner as the needs of the business dictate.

Contact:

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Langley
Berkshire SL3 8JP

careers@electronicarts.com



MRC Programme on AIDS Nursing

Applicants are sought to lead the Statistics Unit at the MRC Programme, Uganda Virus Research Institute, Entebbe. The successful applicant will supervise the staff of the Unit (4 statisticians, 1 computer manager and 4 data entry officers) and will work closely with other senior scientific staff in the planning, monitoring, analysis and interpretation of all quantitative field and laboratory based studies of the MRC Programme.

The MRC Programme is funded by the British Medical Research Council and the Department for International Development, which investigate aspects of HIV, infection and subsequent disease, response to the medical and social consequences of the epidemic and develop strategies for AIDS control. Current work includes longitudinal cohort studies for surveillance and community, and individualised intervention trials. This multidisciplinary programme offers a unique opportunity to work in a well supported and staffed environment in attractive surroundings in East Africa. The successful applicant will be encouraged to develop his or her own areas of research.



Royal Holloway University of London

Department of Computer Science Systems Programmer

The Department of Computer Science, Royal Holloway, University of London, invites applications for the post of Systems Programmer. This is a full time position for a person with a degree in Computer Science or a related discipline, and who has experience in the design, implementation, installation and administration of software systems for use in teaching and research.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the design, implementation, installation and administration of software systems for use in teaching and research. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design, implementation, installation and administration of software systems for use in teaching and research.

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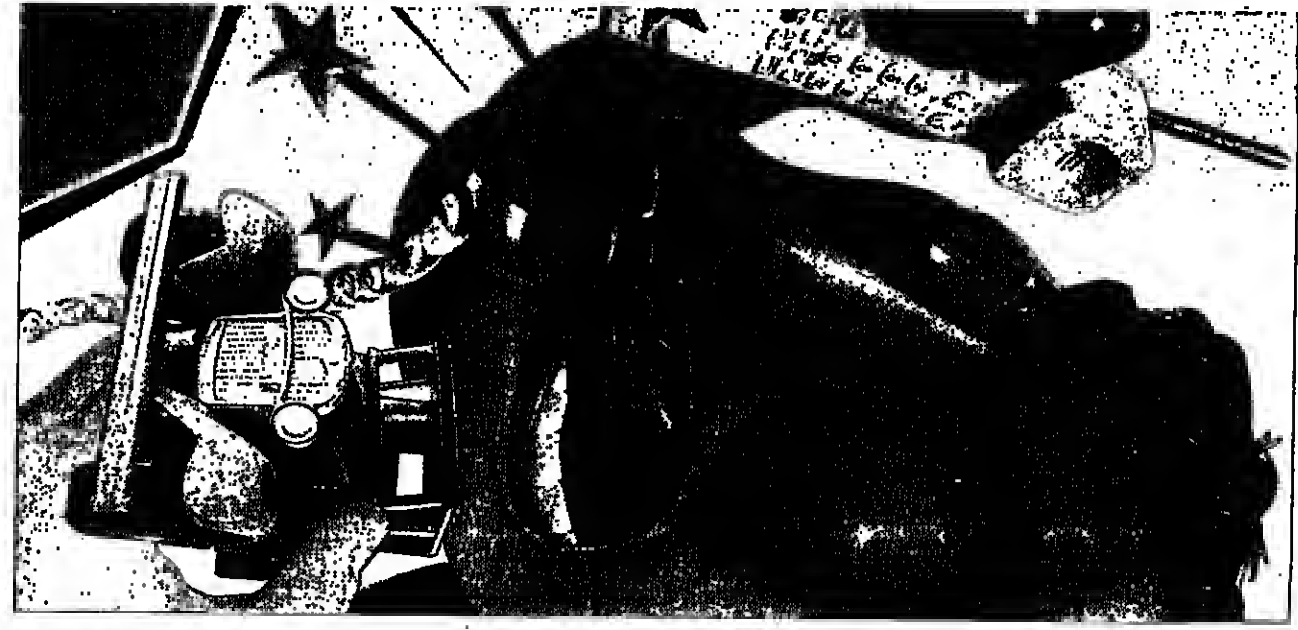
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winner, not a whiner

When all else fails, remember you are not alone. Helen Brooks lists the people who make your grievance their business

Applications for help from a watchdog should be made only after the complaint has been addressed to the supplier of the product or service. Contact the appropriate organisation, stating clearly the problem and the resolution you are seeking.

OMBUDSMAN SERVICES

If your complaint cannot be resolved by the regulator or professional body, you can try the relevant ombudsman. Parliamentary Ombudsman deals with complaints against government departments, government agencies and many non-departmental public bodies. 0171-217 4163

Adjudicator for the Inland Revenue

0171-980 2292

Legal Services Ombudsman

0161 226 8832

Insurance

0800 666 666

Health Service Ombudsman

0171-217 4051 (England), 0131 225 7466 (Scotland), 01222 394 621 (Wales).

Funeral Ombudsman

0171-480 1112

GENERAL

Advising Standard Authority 2 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HW 0171-680 5555.

Consumer's Association

As well as consumer advice in its Which? magazine, the CA publishes a useful book titled 150 Letters That Get Results, priced £9.99 (copies can be ordered on 0800 252100).

Office of Fair Trading (OFT)

The government body that safeguards consumer rights. The public can phone its helpline on 0345 224 6939. OFT cannot take up individual cases but will direct callers to the appropriate authority.

THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS

Office for the Supervision of Solicitors, Victoria Court, 8 Darnley Place, Leamington Spa, Warwick CV32 5AE, 01926 920062. Bar Council, 11 St Dunstons Street, London EC4A 3DF, 0171-440 4000.

Consumer's Rights

Complaints RUCS will also up national cases. RUCS has eight regional offices - their address should be checked at your local station. Phone 0171-222 0281 for a copy of a free booklet detailing RUCS's services and complaints procedure.

GAS ELECTRICITY, PHONE AND WATER

Office of Gas Supply (OGSASH) Regulates Gas Trading and



Customer Services Committee (CSC)

responsible for your local water company. You can find your regional office listed in the telephone directory or call the ONSA switchboard on 0121 623 1300.

CHARITY COMMISSION

Deals with complaints about mismanagement, misappropriation or misapplication of charity funds. St Albans House, 67-69 Haymarket, London SW1V 4QX, 0171-210 4466.

TRANSPORT AND HOLIDAYS

ABTA Check for the ABTA logo on your holiday brochure or call their information line on 0800 320 2920 (premium rate charge). For advice or complaints about misbehaving, call 0171-250 7307. Alternatively, write to the Consumer Affairs Department, ABTA, 68-71 Newman Street, London W1F 4AH.

Air Transport Users Council (ATUC)

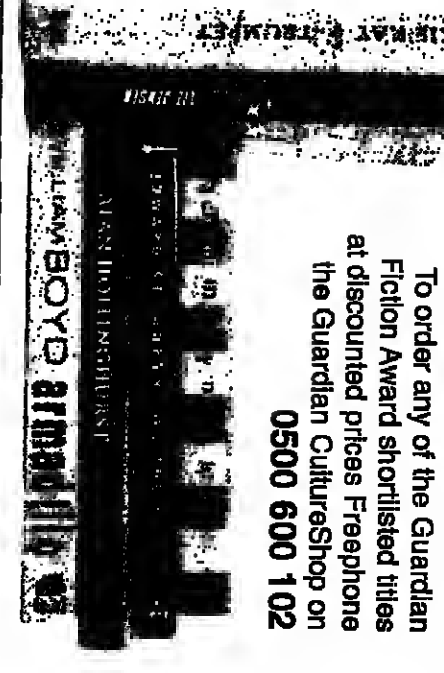
Only deal with complaints about airlines, not holiday companies. Call 0345 553330 or write to Retail Motor Industry Federation, 201 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AB to check whether a dealer is a member. Complaints will be referred to the National Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Transco and licensees all other gas supply companies in the market. Call the competition helpline on 0800 887777. Office of Electricity Regulation (OFRS): Contact your regional office on 0845 601 3191. The address and telephone number of your local office can also be found in the telephone directory. Electrical Contractors Association (ECA): The ECA is an employers' trade association rather than a consumer protection body, but can intervene to help resolve complaints against members. 34 Palace Court, London W2 4HT, 0171-313 4800. You can check whether an electrical contractor is a member through the association's web site: <http://www.ea.co.uk>. Office of Telecommunications (OFTel): If you have a complaint to register against a communications provider, ensure that you have the name of the operator, your account number, and the name of the person you have contacted with your complaint. OFTEL, Consumer Representation Section, 60 Langside Hill, London EC4A 7LJ, 0845 724 6000. ICSTTS: Supervises the content and promotion of premium rate services (financial lines, weather lines, vote lines and so on). Contact ICSTTS on their freephone line 0800 850 212 or write to ICSTTS, Trepoat, WCC4 6B, London WC1V 7BN. Office of Water Services (OFWATS): OFWATS functions as an economic regulator. You should address complaints to the regional

The Guardian fiction award 1998

The winner will be announced in the Guardian on December 4

To order any of the Guardian Fiction Award shortlisted titles at discounted prices Freephone the Guardian CultureShop on 0500 600 102



Rule Six: Know your friends

The phone book is your first source of allies. Look up the local authority trading standards office and environmental health department, the consumer advice centre, chambers of commerce, neighbours.

Be a good neighbour

Big rises in fuel prices are on the way. Given the poor service on many routes, this is itself a cause for complaint.

Watch your car

reportedly increasing car thefts by 18 per cent, despite the fact that in the 12 months up to September,

THE TRAIN

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